Waterbeach Community Primary School

Learning - Laughter - Friendship

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Dear parents and carers of children in year 6.

In recent months we have seen a deterioration in the behaviour and wellbeing of some of our children, linked to activities outside of school, led by use of chats on mobile phones. We have received copies of some foul language, racist comments and derogatory comments about families in written and verbal formats. We know that these "conversations" have led to violent behaviour between some of our children.

I am sure you feel, as we do, shocked and concerned that such language can be coming from children who are under twelve years of age and have not even left primary school yet.

A major concern is that these conversations have been occurring for the best part of five months and during this time we have received information from only two parents whose children have been talking to them. We are very grateful to both families for coming forward.

This letter is NOT an accusation or a means to focus blame. We do need to ask you all to please look at your child's mobile phones and check their communications – they could be the victims of cyber bullying, or they could be the perpetrators. We are aware of a number of WhatsApp groups where these terrible chats have been happening.

The use of mobile phones is NOT the responsibility of school. We do teach children how to use internet and "chats" appropriately, but it seems there are a small number of children who will ignore this to become "keyboard warriors". Every parent, whose child has a mobile phone, needs to act on this now if their children have mobile phones – it is not about mistrust – it is about protection and school asks you to please take responsibility for monitoring your child's behaviour online.

Thank you for support and cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Miss Green

Head Teacher