

Greenslade Primary School

Erindale

Plumstead Common

London SE18 2QQ

Telephone: 020 8316 6847

E-mail: office@greenslade.greenwich.sch.uk



Greenwich Education Service

Headteacher: David Ashley

Deputy Headteacher: Helen Nichols

Senior School Admin. Officer: Sue Kidd

Premises Manager: Garry Jay

Senco: Helen Forbes-Green

12th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Respect Inspire Achieve

It became apparent to me again this week that a number of our children are using social media to set up "chat groups" and are communicating with each other extensively using their tablets, gaming devices and mobile phones. Generally children seem to communicate with each other in a very positive and friendly way.

Sadly, however, over the weekend the use of one of these chat groups turned very nasty and rather frightening. A number of children became involved in sending rude and threatening messages. Some of the messages were extremely insulting. In a very concerning development, older, unknown children from outside of our school became involved.

A number of children who saw the first set of unpleasant messages followed our previous advice and spoke immediately to their parents and withdrew themselves from the group. Parents took a screen shot of the messages and I was able to use these screen shots as evidence. This is exactly the advice I want all of our children to follow.

It appears that some of our children later became involved in a "face-time" group called "House Party". This included having direct contact with a number of older people unknown to them. In one of the posts the unknown children covered their faces so they could not be identified. This has caused me great concern and highlights the dangers of children using the internet and social media unsupervised.

Some of the messages were extreme and in an attempt to keep our children safe I have passed the information on to the appropriate authorities. I am not sure what the outcome will be but I am writing to ask you all to speak with your child about the dangers of using social media and using inappropriate websites or Apps.

Please closely supervise and monitor your child's use of the internet and social media and make sure that all of their devices have appropriate age restrictions and parental controls. Our website has information on how to do this.

I am most concerned about our children gaming or having contact with people they do not know. Our "Internet Safety Workshops" last summer proved how very easy it is for an adult to create an "online identity" and pretend to be a child. The potential consequences are frightening.

Please help keep our children safe online.

Yours sincerely

David Ashley, Headteacher



Living the Olympic
and Paralympic Values