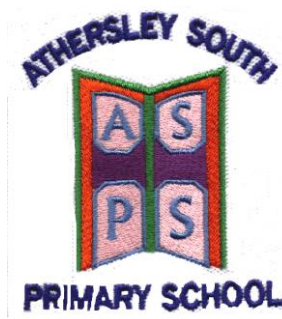


Mrs E. Sanderson  
Headteacher  
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**\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT E-SAFETY – PLEASE READ\*\***

Dear Parents

As a school we are committed, as part of our safeguarding duties, to promote the safe and responsible use of the internet, social media and other apps. The internet and social media provide amazing opportunities for communication, interaction and opportunities to connect but with these opportunities come many risks. In response to a call from South Yorkshire Police, and with Christmas fast approaching when many children will receive the gift of a mobile phone, tablet or laptop, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you all to remind you of the potential risks involved when children are accessing the internet, social media and other apps and draw your attention to some recent concerning activity.

I have been contacted by South Yorkshire Police to say that it has been brought to their attention that within the last few weeks some children, including those of Primary School age, have been exposed to highly inappropriate content on Instagram and/or Whats App and they are currently investigating these allegations. They have therefore asked me to share their concerns and ask that I remind and advise you, that if you do not already do so, to monitor your child's activity on their mobile devices regularly and if you have any concerns about inappropriate content, including messages, images and/or videos you ensure these are reported to the Police by calling 101. It is also essential that you ensure that the correct privacy settings and access rights are activated on your child's devices and associated apps.

If you are unsure about how to ensure the settings on your child's devices are sufficient there are many internet sites that can provide guidance, the following are examples but other sources are available:

- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/instagram/>

The third website is particularly useful as you can gain information about specific social media sites/apps and security features.

It is easy to think that your child is being sensible and safe online and that nothing can happen to them. However, as my communication with the Police this week demonstrates, it can happen. Ultimately, the decisions around your child's access to the internet, social media and other apps lay entirely with you as parents and carers but we feel it is important to highlight the risks of using these sites and hope that by working together we can protect our children from any potential distress and/or harm.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E. Sanderson  
Headteacher