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## Important information regarding WhatsApp and Wizz App

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a school, we believe it's crucial to keep you informed about developments in technology that could potentially affect the safety and well-being of your children.

Today, I want to draw your attention to two popular messaging platforms: WhatsApp and Wizz App and discuss the very real, associated dangers.

**WhatsApp (Age restriction of 13):** As you may know, WhatsApp is a widely used messaging application that allows users to send text messages, voice messages, images, and videos, as well as make voice and video calls. While WhatsApp can be a useful communication tool, especially for staying in touch with family and friends, it's important to be aware of certain risks, particularly when it comes to younger users. One of the main concerns with WhatsApp is privacy and security. While the platform offers end-to-end encryption for messages, which means that only the sender and recipient can read the messages, it's still possible for sensitive information to be shared inadvertently or for users to be exposed to harmful content. Additionally, WhatsApp groups can sometimes become platforms for cyberbullying or the spread of inappropriate content.

**Wizz App (Age restriction of 12):** Another messaging platform but its principles are like a data platform. It is gaining popularity among younger users and presents similar risks. While Wizz App allows users to connect with others based on shared interests and participate in group chats, it also exposes users to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate sexualised content, and dangerous interactions with strangers. As responsible adults, it's essential that we take steps to educate ourselves and our children about these risks and take appropriate measures to mitigate them. Here are a few tips to help ensure your child's safety while using messaging apps like WhatsApp and Wizz App:

- 1. Monitor Activity:** Check your child's messages and group chats and monitor your child's online activity. Consider using parental control software or monitoring tools to help you stay informed.
- 2. Set Boundaries:** Establish clear rules and guidelines for your child's use of messaging apps, including who they can communicate with, what type of content is appropriate, and when they can use the apps. Be explicit about what is and isn't acceptable; don't take it for granted that they know.
- 3. Open Communication:** Encourage your child to talk to you about their online activities and any concerns they may have. Create a safe environment where they feel comfortable discussing their experiences without fear of judgment or punishment.

4. **Educate About Privacy:** Teach your child about the importance of privacy and security online, including the risks of sharing personal information and interacting with strangers.
5. **Encourage Responsible Use:** Remind your child to think before they send messages or share content online, and to consider the potential consequences of their actions. Once something has been shared, it cannot be unseen or unshared.
6. **Where and when they use their device:** Think about how much your child uses their phone alone. Do they take their phone to bed with them? Are they on it late at night when you are asleep? By staying informed and actively involved in your child's online life, you can help ensure their safety and well-being in an increasingly digital world.

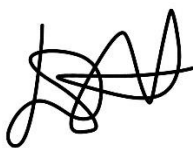
If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can work to keep our children safe online.

Finally, as educators, we are only able to pass information and advice to you which we think will help keep your child safe online. It is the responsibility of you, the parent, to ensure and check that your child is safe online.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions about online safety or any aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact us via the office email address or by phone.

Attached to this letter are two advice posters on What's App and Wizz which have been created by National Online Safety. Please take some time to read the information carefully.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lindsay Hayward', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Lindsay Hayward  
Head Teacher