



Mrs A D Thorpe  
Head Teacher

## St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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*Through following Jesus, we aim to be a caring, happy school, where everyone is valued and appreciated and can reach their true potential. We hope to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.*

**READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE**

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6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents/carers,

### Safer Internet Day

Today is [Safer Internet Day](#), which means it is an ideal time of year, after children have been given mobile phones for Christmas, to sit down and remind your child about how to keep themselves safe online. Whether they use a computer, tablet or mobile phone, the link above will take you to the website which is promoting ways to stay safe and also issues to discuss with your child.

I have also uploaded a number of [information sheets](#) onto the school website for your information, I would strongly encourage you all to talk to your children about how to use their mobile phones appropriately and the responsibility that comes with this independence. Every pupil needs to remember that what they say online can and sometimes does have serious consequences.

It is essential that we, as a whole community of parents and teachers work together, to keep our children safe. Some pupils in UKS2, have raised concerns about messages being sent in groups such as WhatsApp, that are deeply unpleasant and extremely unkind both about and to other pupils attending our school. I strongly recommend that all parents check their child's phone for such messages, screen shot any messages you deem harmful as highlighted in the information above, share them with us as appropriate, and then delete their child from the group chat.



It is really important that parents understand what their children are accessing and how easy it is for children to say and do things online that they would never even think about doing or saying in person. Our children have an excellent understanding of how to stay safe online, but they need to make they always apply this understanding to every online interaction. Parents have been extremely supportive of any and all sanctions given. UKS2 pupils have understood that they have made a serious error in judgement by contributing negatively to group chats. I am confident that all pupils have learned a valuable life lesson, they know they should stand up and call out negative behaviour which they know to be wrong. The choice to take part this time should not go forward and define any of our pupils, as we always encourage everyone to learn from their mistakes. Nevertheless, we also need to take every opportunity to ensure that our pupils understand right from wrong and learn to appreciate that poor choices can have serious consequences. I have and will continue to remind all pupils that they have been taught to stand up and defend others, both in person and online.

If any parent wants to discuss any concerns about their child's behaviour online, or would like any further support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

*A D Thorpe*

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