



## St Mary & St Pancras C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher **Jules Belton**, Deputy Headteacher: **Lucy Heard**

Assistant Headteacher: **Lesley Carneiro**

Dear Parents and Carers,

18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

We live in a digital world and as a school, we educate our children to engage within it responsibly. Our children regularly use laptop and iPads for learning and we work with the Camden CLC to undertake ICT workshops, as well as deliver the computing curriculum in school. We deliver e-safety lessons every two weeks, have e-safety displays in class and have e-safety assemblies. We print alerts to parents in our newsletters to deliver key e-safety messages to you at home.

Sadly, many of our children now spend more time on-line than they do playing out, reading or interacting with family. Social media, in all that it purports to connect people, can be a solitary experience and when misused, can be a very damaging one.

The minimum age for use of social media sites is 13 years old, though WhatsApp is 16. However, a National survey of under 13's identified that 78% were using at least one social media site. Some children use more. Some access them on their parent's phones, some in their bedrooms alone and unsupervised and many will not reveal the full extent of their internet use to a grown-up. Our children are far more skilled than many of us at navigating the on-line world.

Please support us in making sure that issues, which start outside of school on social media sites or playing unsuitable games on apps at home, do not come into school and take up valuable learning time. Schools are held accountable for very many aspects of a child's life but coming into homes and ensuring children are off the internet and in bed asleep is not one of them.

Mr Bridgford is currently planning an additional internet-safety week with lessons, assemblies and parents meetings included. We will send you more information once plans are confirmed. Please help us concentrate on learning.

If you want further advice please see the following websites:

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

Kind regards,

Ms Belton

Headteacher