Athersley South Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs E. Sanderson
Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Wheelwright

21st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the course of the last half term, we have become increasingly concerned by a growing number of incidents and behaviours involving some of our KS2 pupils outside of school, both online and within the local community.

We are receiving an increasing number of reports relating to children accessing inappropriate apps and games, using inappropriate language towards one another online, and making threats of violence. In addition, we are aware of several incidents within the local community where children have behaved inappropriately, including the use of offensive language, threatening behaviour and, in some cases, physical altercations.

As we begin the half term break, we felt it was particularly important to share these concerns with families at this time, as children will naturally have more unsupervised time within the community and online over the holiday period.

As a school, we will always seek to support our pupils and families wherever possible and we remain fully committed to promoting children's safety, wellbeing and positive relationships. However, we would like to politely remind parents and carers that responsibility for children's behaviour and activities outside of school ultimately lies with parents and carers themselves.

Increasingly, school staff are being asked to investigate and resolve incidents that have taken place outside of school hours and beyond the school site. In some cases, the seriousness of reported incidents has warranted police involvement and therefore falls well beyond the jurisdiction and responsibilities of school staff.

Whilst we will continue to work alongside families and external agencies where appropriate, it is vital that parents and carers take an active role in monitoring their child's online activity, ensuring that games, apps and social media platforms are age appropriate, and knowing where their children are and who they are with within the community.

We must also stress that the significant amount of time spent investigating and resolving community matters involving a small number of pupils takes valuable staff time away from their primary roles and responsibilities in supporting teaching, learning and pupil wellbeing within school. This is neither fair nor appropriate for the wider school community.

Alongside our existing curriculum work around online safety, respectful relationships and personal responsibility, we are arranging for representatives from the police to visit school next half term to speak with pupils about staying safe online and in the community, understanding consequences, and making positive choices.

We ask all parents and carers to remain vigilant, to speak regularly with their children about appropriate behaviour and conduct, and to take responsibility for their child's actions both online and within the community.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sanderson