Tuesday 25th May 2021

Dear Otter Class Parents/Carers,

**Re: Online Safety and use of TikTok**

We have recently become concerned about some of the children’s online safety, in particular the use of the app, TikTok outside of school.  Since our return in March, it has become an increasingly prominent feature in children’s break time and lunch time conversations. During this time, a number of staff members have overheard conversations that link to inappropriate themes for the age of the children in Otter Class (including some very bad language which has very recently been reported) which is being used both inside and outside of school. Our priority is to keep the children safe, including their exposure to themes and conversations before they are mature enough to fully understand this.

We have made PSHE (Personal Social Health Education) a prominent part of the day since returning to school this academic year, working on relationships, self-esteem, gratitude and online safety, including a full day from an outside agency focusing on the themes listed above. In recent weeks, this has also included discussions around online safety for example: age-restrictions and the reason for having them.

We are writing to please urge you to support us in keeping your children safe online outside of school. The age restriction for TikTok is 13 years old, with parental permission, however many platforms encourage TikTok to be restricted to 15 years or older. We feel that this app is extremely difficult to monitor and restrict what the children are viewing and the children are very easily directed to inappropriate content. We would strongly advise that children in Otter Class delete this app. Please see this link for more information: **https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51561050**

We would also like your support by discussing the above with your child, helping them to act responsibly and ensuring their online conversations are monitored on a daily basis and their electronic devices are supervised wherever possible.

Thank you for your support in this. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or questions.

Many thanks

Mrs Bailey and Miss Davey