

Lichfield Down, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes MK7 7BW
Tel: 01908 550811 Fax: 01908 605273
Email: heronsgateschool@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Many children in year 6 have access to phones, tablets or games consoles that are connected to the internet. Through these devices lots of children are able to communicate with each other through online games, comments on websites and apps on phones. Although the majority these interactions are fun and harmless, there are occasionally issues where some children are being subject to bullying behaviour. For the victims of online bullying there may be both short and long term effects that can take a long time to heal from. In addition to this, where these behaviours happen outside of school and online, they can become a matter for the Police and consequences can be very serious.

Even though the majority of Heronsgate children will be using the internet safely, we encourage you to have an open and honest conversation with your child about their internet usage, in particular about what isn't acceptable behaviour. If it isn't okay in real-life, then it isn't acceptable online either. You may want to talk about websites such as Facebook and Youtube, and apps such as Musical.ly and Whatsapp, as these are ways in which many children do communicate. It is also worth noting that many of these websites and apps have a minimum user age of 13.

If you require further information or guidance then we recommend visiting the Child Exploitation and Online Protection website www.thinkuknow.co.uk and access the Parent/Carer section. Here you will find advice on how to have this conversation with your child, as well as videos you may want to watch on your own or with them.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Chapman

Year 6 Manager