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14th February 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, I would like express great thanks to those of you who managed to attend the Safer Internet information evening on Tuesday last week. Attached to this email is the information and resources we gave out on the evening for those of you who were not able to come.

Following class activities on Safer Internet Day, it has come to our attention that many of our children, particularly those in Key Stage 2 are accessing online apps and social media platforms. We would like to take this opportunity to alert you to the minimum age requirement for most commonly known and used platforms (Instagram, snapchat, Facebook or twitter) which is **thirteen years of age**. These age requirements are in place to protect your children and we would urge you to help us in doing this.

Most recently, we have been made aware of an online app called 'Tik Tok', for which the minimum age restriction is also **thirteen**. We are particularly worried about this app because by default, all accounts are public, allowing anyone on the app to see what your child shares. On this app, approved 'followers' can send your child messages. There is the risk that strangers may directly contact children on the app by becoming a follower. There is an option to set accounts to be private, which ensures that no one else on the platform can see the videos or creations that your child creates. However, even with a private account, your child's profile photo, username, and bio are still visible to all users on the platform.

We thank you for your continued support in safeguarding our children on the internet.

With kind regards,

Mrs Cunningham, Internet Safety Co-ordinator.