

Pheasey Park Farm Primary School and Early Years Centre

Address: Wimperis Way, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7DH

Telephone: 0121 3666183

School Email: postbox@pheasey.org.uk

Early Years Centre Email: early-years@pheasey.org.uk

Website: www.pheaseyparkfarmprimary.co.uk / www.elstonhallmat.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs S Arnold

Early Years Centre Manager: Miss T Ilsley



PHEASEY PARK FARM
Primary School &
Early Years Centre

Tuesday, 10th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Online Safety 10.5.22

There have recently been a number of instances where our children have used social media, specifically Tik Tok, to post their own content. We are aware that in a number of these posts, personal information has been shared, including names of pupils as well as the school's name. A number of posts have been created whilst wearing school uniform. Some of the children who are following these accounts are as young as Year 4. This presents a number of risks.

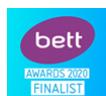
Can I please remind you that according to Tik Tok's own terms and conditions, users should be at least 13 years old. If we are made aware of underage use, we will treat this as a safeguarding issue. We may have to contact Tik Tok and report these posts to ensure children are safeguarded. Any reference to the school can place children at risk. This allows other users to locate children, recognise uniform and learn information about the school and its pupils. Posts also have the potential to damage the reputation of both the school and individuals. We want our children's digital reputation to be as positive as possible, whilst protecting the reputation of the school and other children that attend.

We understand that young people on Tik Tok often set their profile to public, keen to share their content with others. However, this is potentially extremely risky as this allows other users to comment on posts, contact children and potentially screen capture or download content.

Unfortunately, as a platform, Tik Tok does have some extremely concerning content within it - this includes violence, unhealthy Tik Tok challenges, hate content as well as adult content. There is always a risk that children might access this, albeit accidentally. The way platforms such as Tik Tok work means that once viewed, this type of content will appear to the user again and again.

In response, could we please ask you to:

- have regular conversations with your child, pointing out some of the risks above as well as potential consequences.
- regularly monitor their use of devices and platforms, discuss appropriate and healthy online behaviour.



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- Unfollow any account associated with Pheasey. To clarify, Pheasey School do not have ANY TikTok accounts
- Report to TikTok any account showing your child's name/photograph
- Ensure all accounts your child has are set to private

Above all, please be involved in your child's online life.

We have organised an Online Safety Workshop for parents on Monday, 20th June between 6pm and 7pm and further details will follow. We already have regular Online Safety assemblies in school to educate children about the ways to keep themselves safe and we have booked additional Online Safety workshops with an external provider for Years 5 and 6 on 20th June.

Our view, as a school, is that children should not use social media underage. However, if you do make the decision to allow this, please be vigilant. Regularly check their posts, check what they are watching as well as checking their contacts or followers.

Have an agreed set of expectations about the time spent on devices, where devices are used, and the platforms allowed. Our advice is that devices should not be allowed in bedrooms as that is where most harmful online experiences take place. This family agreement from Childnet is a fantastic way to start conversations and agree on expectations [Family agreement | Childnet](#)

Ensure that your child is aware that they have a trusted adult to talk to if things go wrong. This includes an adult in school. Please do let us know if you have concerns, as online activity can often impact school life.

Thank you for your understanding. As a school, we have a duty of care to children and their families and we have to safeguard our community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Arnold
Head Teacher

