



# The Crescent Primary School

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**Headteacher:** Mr Mark Wartnaby  
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## Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to ask for your support in helping children stay safe when using technology at home, particularly on mobile phones and messaging apps such as WhatsApp.

Recently, we have become aware that some pupils are using WhatsApp to take part in large group chats and calls- children are also passing on other children's phone numbers without permission. These groups can sometimes include individuals whom children do not know personally, which carries several risks, including:

- Exposure to inappropriate language or content
- Contact with potential strangers
- Pressure to respond to messages late at night
- Sharing of images or personal information without understanding the consequences
- Unkind or unmoderated conversations

As a reminder, **our school is a smart-phone-free environment**. Pupils should not be bringing smart phones into school, and we strongly encourage parents to support this policy at home and consider whether children of primary school age should have the amount of freedom that they currently have. WhatsApp has a **minimum age requirement of 13**, and children may not yet have the maturity or understanding to safely manage group chats or privacy settings.

We kindly ask that you:

- **Check your child's devices regularly**, including their messaging apps, group chats, and contacts
- **Discuss online safety** and the importance of not joining or creating large group chats
- **Review privacy settings together**, especially who can add your child to groups
- **Encourage your child to speak to a trusted adult** if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable

Our aim is not to discourage technology entirely, but to ensure children are protected, supported, and using devices appropriately at home in line with the values we uphold in school.

If you have any questions or would like further advice on online safety, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mark Wartnaby

Headteacher

Reach for the Stars



Hampshire  
County Council

