Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West
Butler Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6QZ
Telephone: 01344-773496
admin@oaklands-jun.wokingham.sch.uk   www.oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk

Thursday 19th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

<u>Snapchat and Safeguarding Concerns</u>

We have today been notified by our Wokingham Local Authority about a safeguarding concern in connection with Snapchat which we would like to share with you, so that you can review and monitor what your child may be accessing online. 'The Game' on Snapchat refers to self-harm, inciting harm to others and potential suicide, which is shocking.

At our lunchtime staff meeting today, staff were made aware of this concern so that we can be vigilant if we hear any talk about this in school. We are not going to be sharing this with our children as this can cause even greater harm for children who use Snapchat but are unaware of this as they may just want to look to see what this is all about.

We would ask you to please be vigilant by not only being aware of what your child may be accessing on Snapchat but also any other social media platforms. Snapchat is only recommended for children 13+ but there is more information regarding online safety on our website if you would like more information: https://oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Children-and-the-Internet.pdf.

Showing an interest in the games that children are playing is a very good way for you to start up conversations and regularly know the latest trends, whilst also ensuring online safety and regularly talking about what to do if your child feels unsafe. We will continue to regularly empower children with online safety education which emphasises the importance of letting an adult know if they have accessed something that feels uncomfortable.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping all our children safe.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H West
Headteacher