

DOTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Severn Drive, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 3JB
Telephone 01952 386870



Head Teacher: Becca Butler

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Dear Parents / Carers

It has been brought to our attention that a number of children from Year 5 and 6 have been using Whatsapp to send messages to each other. This has resulted in children creating group chats involving large numbers of children and, in some cases, children are sending messages that are abusive or inappropriate. This means that teachers are having to spend increasing amount of time resolving issues that have been caused by children using apps out of school that are not age-appropriate. More worryingly, it has been reported that strangers have been invited to the group - some teenagers and an adult. These people will now have access to the telephone numbers of all the children within that group.

Whatsapp has an age restriction of 16. If you are allowing your child to use Whatsapp, it is crucial that you monitor what they are doing, the messages they are sending and who they are interacting with.

More information about protecting your privacy when using Whatsapp can be found at <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/whatsapp/>

Best Wishes
Becca Butler
Head Teacher



E-mail: a3368@telford.gov.uk

Website: www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk