

All Saints' C of E (VC) Primary School

Highlands Drive - Maldon - Essex - CM9 6HY

Headteacher - Mr P.J.Brown B.Ed Hons (NPQH / NPQEL)

Deputy Headteacher - Mrs C.A.White Ba Ed

Telephone: 01621 853519

Email: admin@allsaintsprimaryschoolmaldon.co.uk

Website: www.allsaintsprimaryschoolmaldon.co.uk



Wednesday 5th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you in response to some concerns we have had in school regarding pupils and their use of mobile phones.

As children and their parents navigate their way through the increasing levels of technology they are being exposed to, we wanted to draw your attention to this excellent programme entitled 'Swiped', which gives an insight into the impact smartphones are having on our children.

▶ [Inside Britain's School That Banned Smartphones | Swiped | Channel 4 Documentaries](#)

The Department for Education published findings around mobile phone use by our children in which it stated:

'By the age of 12, 97% of children have their own mobile phone, according to Ofcom. Using mobile phones in schools can lead to online bullying, distraction and classroom disruption which, in turn, can lead to lost learning time.'

Last year, Unesco called for smartphones to be banned from schools as evidence showed it was linked to reduced educational performance and that excessive screen time had a negative impact on children's wellbeing.'

As children get older it may well be that you take the decision to buy them a phone as you prepare them for secondary school and they gain greater independence. However some of the challenges we are facing in school include:

- The messaging between children on their way to and from school which leads to the need to unpick problems before even starting the school day.
- Children keeping expensive phones in their bags or lockers where they could be potentially lost or broken.
- Children trying to access their phones during the school day such as at lunchtime to 'check something'.

As a result, I am writing to you to let you know about how we can work together to support our children in using their phones responsibly.

What we will do:

- Ensure those children who bring phones into school put them in a dedicated box in their classroom at the start of the school day. This box will be held securely for safekeeping, for the entirety of the school day, in the school office. Nominated pupils will then collect the box at the end of the day and return it to class, this is to ensure everyone gets their phones for the journey home. For those children who attend an after school club, the phone becomes the pupil's responsibility to keep it secure and unused from 3.15pm, until their club is finished and they are off the school premises.
- Continue to reinforce responsible use of IT in school including the online safety sessions we hold in school as part of both Computing and PSHE lessons.
- Continue to deliver the message that when you write something on your phone it leaves a digital footprint that can never be erased and that you are responsible for everything that you say, text, email or post.
- Mobile phones are an expensive item. Should you choose to send your child in with a phone we cannot be held responsible for any damage that may occur in school during the course of it being handed over, eg a child dropping their phone in the box which in turn damages another.

What we would ask you to do:

- Reinforce with your child the importance of keeping their phones safe by putting them in the class box.
- Reinforce the responsibility that comes with the ownership of a phone.
- Reinforce that it is important to keep a balance in the use of technology as part of a healthy lifestyle.
- Monitor your children's use and reinforce the lesson that whenever someone texts, posts or messages using their phone, it leaves a digital footprint that can never be erased.

This is part of the wider message we are trying to give regarding online safety and the responsible use of technology in which we all have a part to play in keeping our children safe and preparing them for life.

Please do have the conversation with your children about what they are doing with their devices and make sure that they are staying safe online. There are many fantastic websites available should you need any further support including www.common sense media.org/ and www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety#guides - In addition we of course are more than happy to talk about it with you and offer further support if needed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

P Brown

Mr P Brown
Headteacher
All Saints C of E Primary School, Maldon

S Cairey

Mr S Cairey
Year 5/6 Phase Leader
All Saints C of E Primary School, Maldon

