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Dear parents

**Social media groups set up by parents**

As it is the start of another school year, I just wanted to bring to your attention some important points about the use of social media groups.

We live in an ever growing world of technology and the use of ‘Whats App’ groups, facebook etc are on the increase. We all use social media and as a parent myself, it can be a very useful tool in order to check you haven’t missed something to catch up on school events etc. However I would like to share with you a few bits of advice.

*Everyone is entitled to explore and engage in social media communities in a personal capacity, at a level at which they feel comfortable. There are many benefits in using social media to communicate and keep in touch. However, we’d like to remind you that misuse or abuse of social and digital media can cause significant upset and injury to the individuals referred to and can also impact negatively on the school. We want to ensure that we’re setting a good example to our children in avoiding bullying or harassment and treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves.*

*We’d like to remind you:*

* *To think before you post.  As a general rule of thumb, don’t write anything about other people that you would not be happy being written about yourself.*
* *That anything you post that is inaccurate, unfair, or breaking the privacy of a pupil or member of staff will ultimately be your responsibility and may be subject to further action. Please avoid for example threats of violence or damage to property, harassment or anything else that is grossly offensive, indecent, obscene or false.*
* *That the Internet is permanent. Once information is published online, it is essentially part of a permanent record, even if you “remove/delete” it later or attempt to make it anonymous.*

We do have a parent code of conduct at Holly Park which is posted on our website and we would ask parents to abide by that. Negative information posted on social media usually is notified to the school by a concerned or supportive parent and often a parent will bring in their phone and actually show us the messages.

We just ask that you use social media sensitively

Many thanks for your co-operation



Ann Pelham

Headteacher