



Burnley Road
Padiham
BB12 8ST

02 March 2023

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is such a relief that spring has arrived and we are coming and going from school in the daylight.

I am writing to you all regarding a familiar topic - social media use!

In school we are becoming increasingly concerned about the dangers of social media and particular apps.

We are all aware of the dangers our young people face when they are online. We also know how quickly group chats can turn abusive or rude, and then the impact this has at home and in school. This has been seen recently with some extreme behaviours in some schools triggered by things on TikTok.

We are most concerned about how a number of apps are being used. We are doing a series of assemblies starting this week, but it is vital we share our concerns with you.

I need to flag a particular issue that is coming up time and time again. When your child is at home and accessing the internet via your Wi-Fi you will likely have parental controls in place. This limits what your child can search for on the internet. However, this does not protect your child from being sent ANY type of pictures/videos or messages via social media sites such as Snapchat and Instagram.

We urge you put in place your own monitoring of these apps if you allow your child to use them. We are seeing incidences where children are in groups on these sites/apps and extremely inappropriate and disturbing content is being posted by random strangers. This applies to groups set up under the form name 7S/ 8H etc... We have told students they should not be in these groups.

To support you in this we have put together an online safety guide for parents and carers. This will help you to help your child use some applications more safely.

We are often asked for advice by families about how to manage the current social media world. The best advice I feel we can offer is not to allow your child endless, unsupervised time online.

Many families do practical things like moving game consoles downstairs. If this isn't practical they have an open-door policy in bedrooms, so an adult can keep popping in.

People also ask their children regularly what they are doing online and have a look at phones.

We would encourage families to regularly check and interact with your children's devices, at different times and in different contexts. This should not be seen as a punishment, more about helping them stay safe.

Please read our guide [here](#). We have also included a copy of the assembly [here](#). If you still require any further guidance do feel free to contact us on safeguarding@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk and we will get in touch.

A reminder that we have a parent safeguarding session in school next Thursday 9th March at 5:30 pm. This will address the issue of bullying. Staff will be available after this to discuss any other concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. England'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mrs R England
Headteacher