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Our Ref: LD/LL/cc/Year 7 E-Safety letter

5th February 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Internet Safety Week

As it is Internet Safety Week both nationally and at Barr Beacon School, I wanted to take this opportunity to make you aware of some e-safety concerns that have come to light so that you are able to keep your child safe online.

We have been made aware by a number of parents that there is a new app called "Tellonym" which a number of pupils have been using at Barr Beacon School. The dangers and concerns regarding this app have recently made it in to the news, as well as being reported to us by a number of parents due to the nature of this app.

This app allows any user to post anonymous comments about your children and we have been notified that some of the comments have been highly inappropriate about children's appearance (cyberbullying) and it has also been reported that some comments made have been of a sexual nature. These comments can be posted by anyone.

My Deputy Headteacher has recently spoken to a large number of Year 7 parents whose children were involved in a groups Whatsapp chat where inappropriate and offensive memes were being shared that children were finding on the internet via social media sites. Many parents were unaware of this and the content that was being shared in this group chat. The age restriction for Whatsapp is 16 years of age and many other social media platforms are 13 years of age.

Please can I urge you to monitor your child's social media access and thoroughly check their camera roll to ensure that they are not accessing, saving and sending on to others inappropriate material. There are age restrictions on social media apps and we do make parents aware of these regularly as well as e-safety information on our school website:

<http://www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/Parent%20e-Safety%20Info.pdf>

All children are having e-safety assemblies this week and will continue this theme with their form tutors during their PSHE lessons. Please can I ask that you speak to your child and check their devices to help us keep your children safe.

If you have any concerns, please contact your child's Head of House in the first instance.

I thank you for your continued support in this most important safeguarding matter.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Draycott
Headteacher

