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Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have decided to write to all Parents and Carers about concerns over the Year 5/6 whatsapp group and another called 'Anyone who has been to Crich Juniors.'

We have had some serious disclosures from children who are being targeted out of school with abusive comments, and this bullying is creating high levels of distress for them.

The online bullying is being brought into school, with children falling out, arguing and continuing unpleasantries that originated out of school. Peer pressure is applied to children that are leaving groups or not accepting new invites, and lots of children are becoming involved, acting as judge and jury on incidents and using their friends to apportion any retribution. This is usually in the form of who is friends with who, and who isn't.

Investigating all these fall outs is almost impossible at school, as one incident leads to another. Some children are very prominent in the allegations, whereas others are part of the peer pressure groups. Some children also choose to ignore the online and school-based fall outs.

It is a schools duty to manage and educate our children on these safeguarding concerns, so to help us with this I am reaching out to Parents and Carers.

If your child has a smartphone I would urge you to regularly check to see what social media they are using and whether they are using it positively.

**Please scroll down.**

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If you feel that their use of social media indicates an exposure to harmful content, then please act.

At our meeting, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7:30pm in the Black Swan, we will have an expert to guide you through the dangers the children are being exposed to, as well as advise on how to avoid this. [Please sign up here!](#)

Older siblings have been identified in the broader whatsapp group, some posting harmful comments. Please check all your children's phones.

Finally, if you do find any concerns and/or take some actions, please feel free to let me know. We are not looking to blame children, but to understand the problems, to educate our children and co-regulate them to use social media positively.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Orridge

Headteacher

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