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LODDON JUNIOR SCHOOL  
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Headteacher: Mr R Burbage  
[www.loddonprimaryfederation.co.uk](http://www.loddonprimaryfederation.co.uk)

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26 Feb 2020

### Year 5/6 Parents – Social Media

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been brought to my attention by parents and children in Year 5 and 6 that many children have accounts on the social networking site, including TikTok and Instagram. Instagram is a photo sharing app, and TikTok a video sharing app, both designed for people 13 years and over to post and comment on them in a fun way. Unfortunately, it would appear that some children are using it inappropriately and putting themselves and others at risk.

After seeing first-hand some of the activity and comments, I feel it is my responsibility to bring the following issues to your attention:

Firstly, several children have multiple accounts with no privacy settings enabled or location settings disabled. These are, therefore, public accounts where anyone can see their pictures and videos, and they are able to see their location. Pictures include images of children, which is one way in which predators can identify potential victims for grooming purposes.

Secondly, there has been evidence that children are active on the site late at night and in the early hours of the morning. Also, we have seen several instances of obscene comments which could be viewed as cyberbullying and are incredibly hurtful to the recipients, or forwarding obscene videos and images, which can also be viewed as cyberbullying.

Instagram, TikTok and all the other social media websites can be a very useful tool and a way for children to share ideas and experiences with friends. The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of some ways in which it is being misused, so that you can take any action you deem necessary to safeguard your children. There is a wealth of valuable guidance about e-safety, Instagram and other social media available in the Key Information section of the school website, under E-Safety, the link to which is below.

<http://www.loddonprimaryfederation.co.uk/key-information/e-safety/>

In school, we shall be discussing safe and responsible use of the Internet and social networking. Any specific incidents of cyberbullying, racist or homophobic comments brought to our attention by children or parents will be dealt with in line with our school policies.

If you would like to discuss further any of these issues, please feel free to make an appointment through the school office and I will be happy to meet with you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Burbage  
Headteacher