

# HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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## IMPORTANT E-SAFETY LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with regards to asking that ALL parents and carers closely monitor your child's access to social media. You may recall I wrote to you last academic year regarding reminding parents that there is growing concern that children are accessing sites which are not appropriate for their age, particularly the use of WhatsApp and Musical.ly.

**May I remind you that no child at Westfield should be accessing these apps. The Musical.ly app Terms of Service state it has a minimum user age of 13. This is also the case with WhatsApp as their Terms of Service requires users to be age 16 or older and this is for a reason.**

Yesterday I was very concerned to hear that children at Westfield are still accessing WhatsApp. It was brought to my attention that outside of school an indecent image had been uploaded and then sent around on a group chat. At the time I believe that the children involved were not aware of the implications of doing this.

This information was brought to our attention while a teacher was teaching an E-safety lesson. Please be reassured that this was acted upon quickly and we have followed our E-safety procedures, informed the police and all parents have been contacted.

Please see this month's E-Safety bulletin from Hertfordshire <http://westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/computing/>, which stresses the growing number of 'sexting' incidents occurring and reminding all parents that this is an illegal offence.

At Westfield, through our computing and PSHE lessons we continue to teach the children these important E-safety messages, however I can't stress enough the importance of parents taking responsibility to closely monitor their child's social media access in this growing technological world.

**I strongly urge ALL our parents to attend the E-safety workshop being hosted at Thomas Coram on Monday October 2nd at 7pm for all of our town's schools. Please see letter sent last week in the bulletin.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this important letter and for helping us to ensure that your child is kept safe on line.

Regards,

Suzanne Stace  
Headteacher

