



Dore Primary School

A member of the National SCITT for Outstanding Primary Schools
Headteacher: Sue Hopkinson



Furniss Avenue, Dore, Sheffield, S17 3QP

Tel: (0114) 2368690 **Fax:** (0114) 2353206 **Web site:** www.dore.sheffield.sch.uk

E-mail: enquiries@dore.sheffield.sch.uk, headteacher@dore.sheffield.sch.uk,

31st August 2013

Dear Parent or carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school on Tuesday 3rd September for the start of the Autumn Term. I do hope that your family has enjoyed a relaxing summer break.

It has come to my attention that during the summer holiday there has been some continued inappropriate messaging using I message which can be accessed on mobile phones and on I pods. This has resulted in unhelpful and sometimes unkind messages/comments/names being spread around a large and growing string of contacts in a group context. Some children and their parents have been upset and concerned about this and it is important that I highlight to you that this kind of behaviour in which unpleasantness is electronically messaged, either to an individual, small or large group is a form of bullying – cyberbullying.

In my Headteacher role it is important that I raise awareness of this inappropriate behaviour and warn that it is my responsibility to follow up this cyberbullying and take action to try to prevent its reoccurrence. HM Government make it quite clear that HT must follow up any reports of bullying even if it takes place outside the arena of school.

The Service Agreement of several applications such as WhatsApp/ Facebook state clearly that users **MUST BE** older than 12 (in some cases 16) before they can download and use the application. This is true of many social networking sites that your child may wish to use.

This is a timely warning about the dangers of messaging, smart phone use and online activity. We frequently talk about E Safety in school – what may be considered as a prank can have serious damaging outcomes. Please be vigilant with your child's use of messaging and email particularly on mobile devices.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or queries regarding this issue. I will be speaking to the children on our return to remind them that unpleasant messages are out of order and will be followed up.

Warm regards

Sue Hopkinson
Headteacher