



Dore Primary School

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



Healthy Schools
SHEFFIELD

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

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Dear Parent or carer,

During National Anti-bullying week we have a high focus on reminding our children of their responsibilities in keeping themselves and others safe both in school and in the community. Staff have presented different activities as well as a whole school approach.



CYBERBULLYING was becoming an issue in school last summer and during the holiday. This is a **repeat** of the letter I sent to some KS2 year groups.

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**. FIRM action has reduced this problem I am pleased to report but we must all be **vigilant**.

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. We will continue to keep a high profile on E Safety in school.

Warm regards

Sue Hopkinson
Headteacher & CPLT