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Aycliffe Village Primary School  
Aycliffe Village  
Newton Aycliffe  
Darlington  
DL5 6LG

Friday 7th May 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to you directly to ask for your support and assistance with a developing issue we are finding with our older children in school.

Recently, I have started to see an increase in the number of cases of children falling out and experiencing friendship difficulties within Y5 and Y6. Such problems are a normal part of growing up, and will certainly not have been helped by the difficult year the children have experienced due to missing so much social interaction because of Covid lockdowns and restrictions.

However, there is no doubt that these issues have been made worse by the children's access to social media, in particular WhatsApp. We are finding the problems that begin outside of school are starting to affect the children in school and I am sure vice versa is also the case.

As WhatsApp has a recommended age rating of 16+, our children should not really have access to this application. However, if you are happy for your child to use WhatsApp I would ask that you regularly monitor your children's use of social media to help us control the problems we are currently facing.

I hope you understand I have taken the unusual step of writing to you directly to ask for your help so that our children can enjoy the rest of the Summer Term at Aycliffe Village Primary without the upset and distress that this problem is causing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L Adamson'.

Mrs L Adamson  
**Headteacher**