

Parsonage Farm Nursery and Infant School,
Cherry Tree Close,
Cove,
FARNBOROUGH,
Hants
GU14 9TT



Telephone: 01252 548003
Fax: 01252 518380
E-mail: headteacher@parsonagefarm.hants.sch.uk
<http://www.parsonagefarmschool.co.uk>

Headteacher
Miss K Greenway

13th September 2019

Dear Parents,

Use of Mobile Devices in School

In my newsletters last term, I explained that we would be a mobile free zone from September. As I am sure you are all aware, we have seen an increasing use of mobile devices in and around school. We have also received an increasing amount of concerns and comments from parents and after long discussions with teachers and Governors, and based on the importance of safeguarding, we have decided that the use of mobile devices by parents will not be permitted inside the school buildings or outside the classrooms at pick up and drop off time.

This will include the use during school performances and events.

Our reasons for this are as follows:

- 1) More and more parents are taking photos and videos and posting these online - including public sites such as Facebook and Instagram. Even though I have reminded parents at each school performance or event, not to post on these sites, I know that this is continuing to happen. Last term we received many complaints from parents who had been informed by other parents that their child's photo at a school event was online. Many of our parents do not want their child's photographs to be used in this way. As a school, we know which children this involves and by not permitting the use of mobile devices at performances and events, we can ensure that we safeguard these and all children by their photos not inadvertently appearing on social media.
- 2) During school performances, parents spend more time taking photos and videos rather than enjoying the performance. Your children would rather see your happy, smiling faces rather than a sea of phones, cameras and Ipads. Plus, it is annoying for those at the back who can't see because devices are being held up.
- 3) Inside the school, phones can be very distracting. Often phones are not set to silent and parents answer their phones and have loud conversations in a learning environment. This is not very helpful.
- 4) At drop off and pick up time, your child needs your full attention - they want to show you things, or tell you about their day. They cannot do this when you are on the phone - and this is when they often then behave badly to try and get your attention. Whether it is a work or personal call, it can wait for 5 minutes.

So, from Monday 16th September, we ask that parents, grandparents, childminders and visitors turn their mobile phones off when in the school building and outside the classrooms when dropping off and picking up.

For clarification, mobile devices include phones, tablets, or any device that can communicate or record, including cameras and video recorders.

We hope that you see this as a positive move and one that focuses on safeguarding all children.

Yours sincerely,

K. Greenway

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