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.....putting Every Child Matters into Action

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Dear Parents/carers,

Online safety – a TikTok viral video.

A new and highly unpleasant viral video has been noted on TikTok. National advice is not to add fuel to any viral fire by 'promoting' any such video within communications (viral videos feed off such actions), but I think this video is real and alarming, so I am giving you a heads up. It is possible that you have already become aware of this through media coverage.

It has come to our attention that there is a real and nasty viral post going around on TikTok. The company are dealing with the situation and it should be cleared within the next few days.

I hope that this gives you the option to temporarily prevent your child using the TikTok until the matter has been resolved if you so choose.

If your child tells you that they have already seen it, as parents and carers in all such cases it is important to:

- Remain calm and non-judgemental.
- Talk to your children about what they would do if the child sees nasty content and who they would talk to.
- Be curious - where have they seen this content? Can that channel/account be blocked? As a parent, if you are concerned by content of any type, you can report content to <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>.
- Don't treat 'online' different to real life, to children online is real life. In the same way that we would talk about their day at school, their friends etc. we should have regular discussions about what they are doing online and what to do if something is concerning or upsetting.
- There are support charities if you are concerned or want further advice if they have already viewed it. To avoid over sharing about the content here, I suggest if you are looking for more advice please contact school and we will signpost you towards said support as well as offer in school support if needed.

Sorry to share such unpleasant news, but I would rather you have the forewarning and know what to do in case the worst happens and your child does view this or other unpleasant online material.

Kind regards,

D Brown
Headteacher.

