



**Braunstone Frith**  
Primary Academy



inspiration innovation integrity

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## Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the upcoming holiday period, we would like to remind families about the importance of helping children stay safe online. During holidays, children often spend more time on devices and messaging apps. One app that many families allow children to use is **WhatsApp**. Technology and social media apps change often and regularly add new features that adults may not be aware of.

WhatsApp is designed for users aged **13 and over**, and the safest approach for primary-aged children is **not to allow them to use the app**. This is because WhatsApp includes features that can make younger children more vulnerable to unsafe experiences online, such as contact from unknown people, pressure in group chats, scams, and sharing personal information.

Many families may still choose to allow access. If this is the case, the following simple steps can help keep children safer:

### Check privacy settings together

Make sure only trusted contacts can see your child's profile photo, status, and last seen. Limit who can add your child to group chats.

### Talk regularly about online safety

Encourage your child to tell you if something online makes them feel worried, upset, or uncomfortable.

### Teach children how to spot scams

Remind children never to share personal information, passwords, or codes — even if a message looks like it comes from someone they know.

### Turn on extra safety features

Use settings such as **Two-Step Verification** and **Silence Unknown Callers** to reduce risks.

### Be aware of location sharing

Check that live location sharing is turned off unless it is being used safely.

### Keep devices in shared spaces where possible

This helps adults stay aware of how devices are being used.

We appreciate your support in helping children develop safe and responsible online habits. If you have any questions or would like further advice, please contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,  
Mr Booth  
Assistant Head Teacher



# How to Silence Unknown Callers on WhatsApp

You can stop unknown numbers from calling your child by turning on **Silence Unknown Callers**.

**To turn this on:**

1. Open **WhatsApp**
2. Tap **Settings**
  - **iPhone:** Tap **Settings** at the bottom right
  - **Android:** Tap the **three dots** (top right), then tap **Settings**
3. Tap **Privacy**
4. Tap **Calls**
5. Turn on **Silence Unknown Callers**

Calls from numbers not saved in your contacts will be silenced and will not ring. This helps reduce unwanted contact from strangers.

*Search on youtube for videos explaining how to do this.*

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Key online safety numbers for children and parents in the UK include Childline (0800 1111) for free, confidential support for children, and the NSPCC Helpline (0808 800 5000) for adults worried about a child's online safety. For urgent, immediate danger, call the police on 999.

Key Online Safety Contacts:

- Childline: 0800 1111 (Free, confidential, 24/7 for children/young people)
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 (For adults concerned about a child)
- Police: 999 (Immediate danger)
- CEOP Safety Centre: Online reporting via the CEOP website (For reporting online abuse, grooming, or sexual exploitation)
- Stop It Now Helpline: 0808 1000 900 (Support to prevent child sexual abuse)

Support Services & Resources:

- Childline Website: Offers 1-2-1 online chat with counsellors, message boards, and tips on gaming and social media safety.
- NSPCC Helpline Email: [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) <mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk> (Available 24/7).
- Local Child Protection Services: Contact your local authority if you have serious concerns about a child's safety.
- These services provide guidance on issues like cyberbullying, grooming, and sharing inappropriate images.