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Dear Parents and carers

We were recently contacted by Harrow Council regarding the messaging app 'Kik'. As a school, our primary concern is the welfare of the children and therefore we were highly concerned by the information shared with us. We are sharing this information with you so that you can ensure your child's safety online.

Kik is a messaging app which is popular with children & young people. It has many anonymous accounts and is easy to sign up for using false details. The app has featured in more than 1,100 child abuse cases in the last five years. There have been 1,147 investigations by 28 police forces into offences of child sexual exploitation, grooming and image offences involving the app.

Although the Kik app states that users must be 13+, we are aware that children as young as 9 are using it. If a child is under 13 and lies about their age to use the app, they are vulnerable to inappropriate behaviour, risky relationships and advertising aimed at older children. The app has no privacy or parental controls at all.

Please see the attached guide for further information and support. If you have any concerns about your child's safety online or offline, please get in contact via the school office.

Best Wishes

Deputy Headteacher,
Designated Safeguarding Lead

