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Tuesday 15th December 2015

Dear Key Stage 2 Parents and Carers.

It has come to our attention that a number of children are using the free app “Oovoo”. This is a video calling and instant messenger account, which can offer opportunities when used under adult supervision to communicate with friends and family. However using apps like Oovoo (other similar apps include Skype, Instagram, Omegle, Kik, Snapchat Keek) allow users to video chat with unknown and unidentifiable people, which leaves them extremely vulnerable.

We would like to draw your attention to a number of important points about Oovoo:

- * Privacy settings are automatically set to “public” which means your child can be contacted by and speak to strangers.
- * Oovoo has over 100 million users around the world.
- * Users can video chat with up to 12 people.
- * Users are required to be 13 years old in order to set up an account.

If you decide to allow your child to use Oovoo, we urge you to ensure that their privacy settings are set to high and that they understand the SMART internet rules (see overleaf) to keep themselves safe online. It is important that you communicate regularly with your child about their internet usage and that they only use the internet in supervised areas of the house. It is a good idea that, as a parent, you download and familiarise yourself with apps that your child is using.

We have attached CEOP’s latest guidance about Oovoo to this letter but do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any further guidance on this issue.

Below are some websites that would be useful to assist you when selecting which sites and apps to allow your child to use:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware

www.net-aware.org.uk

www.childnet.com

Yours Sincerely,

Mr S Lane
Headteacher



