



Our Vision:

An inclusive learning community where everyone is welcome. Children are curious about and engaged with the world around them; grow into kind and respectful young people, who have the courage and confidence to thrive as global citizens.

“The school has high expectations and aspirations for pupils”

“Pupils’ thirst for learning continues throughout the school, with pupils rising to the challenges they are set”
Ofsted 2023

Head Teacher
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Dear Parents\Carers,

Smartphone and mobile phone update

Thank you to all who completed the Smartphone survey last year. The majority of parents from both year 4 and year 5 responded in favour of a Smartphone ban in school. Therefore, we will be continuing this next academic year and would like to request that, if a child must bring a phone to school, that it is not a Smartphone. The current system where children are not allowed to have their phones with them during the school day will still apply. May I also add that children do not need to bring a phone to school and generally parents feel that this step is only ever needed if children are starting to navigate more independent journeys to and from school.

For children in Year 6 next year, the children will be required to hand their phones to their teacher in the morning for storage in the office until home time. If you feel that you would like your child to bring a phone to school could you please message your child's classteacher at the start of the school year to inform them. Should a child currently in year 5 need to bring a phone to school, please email the office in advance (secretary@otford.kent.sch.uk) and ensure that your child brings their phone directly to the office in the morning and picks it up at the end of the school day.

We have noted a small number of children using phones at the start and end of the school day who are currently in Year 6. Could we please ask parents to discuss this with your children as the entire school site including entrance and exit points is phone free.

We will continue to seek parental views on this subject as children move through the school and will therefore be sending more surveys in the future. Our decisions will be based on these, current best practice and Government guidance which is gaining speed.

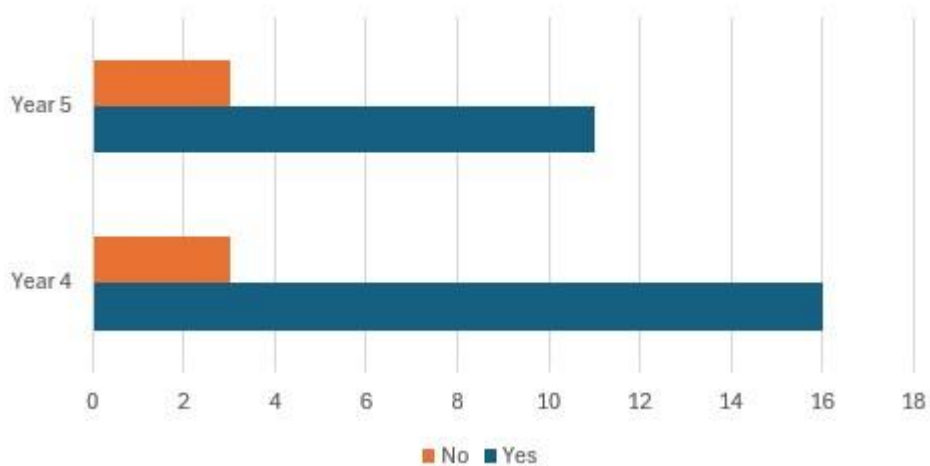
We appreciate and respect that this is a very personal decision but hope that these steps will further support our families and children as we continue to navigate the very complex issues related to on line behaviour and exposure of social media to our very young children.

Best wishes,

Mrs H Roberts
Headteacher

“Pupils’ well-being is a priority”
“The curriculum...is ambitious and reflects the school's values”
Ofsted 2023

Would you support a Smartphone ban in School?



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