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**EMBARK**  
FEDERATION

Headteacher: Miss T. Smith

Dear families,

We are writing to clarify some longstanding expectations and inform of some changes that we will be making from after Easter. This relates to how we manage the following issues:

- Mobile phones
- Jewellery
- Uniform
- Make up and false nails

### Mobile Phones

Following updates to government legislation and multiple rule breaks regarding the use of mobile phones, we have taken the decision to become a **phone-free school**.

Smartphones are a big part of life today. They are a fantastic tool for finding information and staying connected with family and friends but there is now a significant amount of evidence and research of the negative effects of smartphones and social media on children and teenagers.

These include an increase in poor mental health, issues with cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, an impact on the development on social skills and a decrease in the ability to focus on other tasks or activities.

Children often get their first phone in primary school and over 90% of 12-year-olds now have a smartphone. This period is crucial for brain development. A major study found that the younger a child gets a smartphone, the worse their mental health will be.

A lot of schools are exploring the possibility of an outright ban on smart phones. However, we understand that many parents provide their children with phones for safety purposes. With that in mind, even though we are discouraging the use of mobile phones where possible, we have decided to allow children to bring their phone to school **for safety purposes only**. If your child travels to school on their own and needs to bring their phone to school to keep themselves safe, please complete the following form:

[Consent for Mobile Phones – Fill in form](#)

Please note that your child will not be allowed to bring their phone to school unless an adult with parental responsibility has completed the form.

Phones which are brought to school must be switched off and in a child's bag **before** they enter through the **first** school gate. They must remain in bags until children are in the classroom where they will transfer their phone straight from their bag into the safe. At the end of the day, phones must remain switched off and out of sight until children are off school property.

Teachers will each have a list of children in their class whose guardians have consented to them bringing a phone and will be able to check that devices have been handed in.

Where the above rules are not followed, school will confiscate the related device and hold it until a guardian is available to collect it. In the case of repeated incidents, school will confiscate the device for a period of up to 5 days. We will always attempt to contact parents before the end of the school day when a phone has been confiscated. Serious or repeated incidents may result in suspension.

### Jewellery

As always, our policy on jewellery remains that it is not allowed, with the exception of small, stud earrings which can be used in order to prevent piercings from healing. This is for health and safety reasons and to prevent loss or damage to expensive personal items. Following a recent increase in these rules not being followed, it has been decided that jewellery which is brought to school will be confiscated and a guardian will be required to collect it.

### Make up

We will keep a stock of hypoallergenic make-up wipes in the school office which children will be asked to use to remove any visible make-up that they wear to school.

### False Nails

As has always been the case, false nails are not allowed for health and safety purposes. Following this update, children who attend school wearing false nails will not be able to join in with PE or go outside at break and lunch until their nails have been removed.

### School Uniform

We would like to remind you of our expectations regarding school uniform:

- a red or navy-blue jumper or cardigan (preferably with the school logo)
- a white shirt, t-shirt or polo shirt
- black or dark grey trousers, skirt, dress or shorts
- black school shoes (no heel or platform allowed for health and safety reasons) or black trainers

To support the diverse needs of our school community, we are now also happy for children to wear black jogging bottoms or black leggings as part of their school uniform.

### PE Kit

Children are expected to wear the following for PE:

- black, navy-blue or red jumper or hoodie
- white t-shirt
- black jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts
- trainers
- earrings should be removed or children should provide their own micropore tape

All PE kit should be plain and not feature any patterns, logos or graphics.

If children arrive at school without suitable uniform or PE kit, we will contact parents and ask for them to arrange for proper appropriate clothing or kit to be brought to the school.

### Watches

Watches are allowed as long as they do not have a camera or connect to the internet and children will be asked to remove these for PE.

### Healthy Snacks

Guardians are reminded that children should only bring **healthy snacks** (e.g. fruit, breakfast bars, vegetables etc) to school. Any snacks which clearly breach these expectations (e.g. crisps, chocolate, biscuits etc) will be confiscated on sight and returned to the child at the end of the day.

### Toys

Please remember that toys, including soft toys, are not allowed at school. Children can bring in small fidgets which will not cause any distraction to others in agreement with their class teacher.

Anything inappropriate will be removed and returned at the end of the day.

Please note that we cannot take responsibility for anything which brought to school and is lost or damaged.

As always, thank you for your support with these upcoming changes; every choice that we make is done with the safety and development of our children at heart. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the expectations above are implemented fairly and equally for all.

Full policies for the points mentioned above will be posted on the website before the new term should you need them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Miss T Smith and the Chaucer Team

