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Headteacher Mrs C Bradbury

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to share an important online-safety reminder following a concern raised by a member of our school community about a third-party iPhone keyboard app called **Facemoji**.

The app is marketed as a keyboard customisation tool, offering emojis and other features, and is listed with an age rating of 4+ on the App Store. However, concerns have been raised about the permissions it can request, including **"Allow Full Access"** for the keyboard, access to photos and use of the microphone, as well as questions about how information entered through the app may be collected, processed and shared.

This is a useful reminder that an app's age rating does not necessarily mean that it is appropriate for every child or that its privacy practices are straightforward. Apps that appear to be harmless games, keyboards or customisation tools may request access to personal information or have additional AI-enabled features that children may not fully understand.

We encourage all parents and carers to:

- **Check apps before they are downloaded.** Talk to your child about any new apps they would like to use and review the app's features, age rating and privacy information together.
- **Review app permissions.** Check whether apps have access to the microphone, camera, photos, contacts or location, and consider whether these permissions are genuinely necessary.
- **Be cautious with third-party keyboards.** Some keyboard apps may request "Full Access". Before enabling this, consider carefully what this permission allows and how information typed using the keyboard might be handled.
- **Take extra care with AI-enabled apps.** Check how information, images and anything entered into an app may be stored, processed or shared, including with third parties.
- **Encourage children to speak to a trusted adult.** Children should always feel comfortable asking for help before downloading an app, accepting permissions or sharing personal information online.

We will also be reinforcing these messages through our computing sessions, helping children to develop the knowledge and confidence to make safer choices online.

Online safety is an ongoing conversation, and working together helps us to protect children both in and out of school. Thank you for your continued support in helping our children stay safe in an increasingly digital world.

Best wishes,

Christina Bradbury