Primary Parent Update February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mr Buchan and I gave a presentation to Primary parents last week about our desire for Primary parents to embrace the Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) initiative. The presentation (link below) offered an insight into the negative impact of smartphones on childhood development, on learning and communication, and how they expose children to explicit and unwanted content at an age when they are developing their sense of self.

This bulletin offers some additional information from the parent presentation and explains the next steps for encouraging parents to delay allowing their children access to a smartphone. As a school, we believe this is an important initiative and we encourage you to engage with the materials on the SFC webpage. We will continue to promote this initiative throughout 2025 at induction events, through communications, and at our parent conference in September. Our Health and Wellbeing programme will continue to be refreshed to include the latest advice and guidance for our pupils too.

Thank you to all parents who have been in touch to discuss the SFC project and for your suggestions and ideas.

SFC Primary parents' presentation

SFC webpage

Kind regards,

John Anderson (Rector)
Richard Buchan (Primary Headteacher)

Sign the pact

We want as many Jordanhill parents as possible to sign the Smartphone Free Childhood parent pact. The pact is about making a commitment that you will delay giving your child a smartphone. We believe this is both necessary and healthy for our pupils. By acting together, we reduce peer pressure on children and families. Alternatives to smartphones include 'brick' phones, watches and tracking tags. More details are available on the SFC website.

Sign the PACT

Channel 4 documentary

Many parents who have been in touch have recommended the recent Channel 4 documentary looking at Smartphones in schools and their effects on children. This may be a useful starting point if you are thinking about a smartphone for your child.

Channel 4 documentary

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

What next?

We want to keep this initiative in parents' minds as we believe there is real strength in encouraging the delay of smartphones. We will, therefore, publish regular reminders and will host additional events in 2025.

We are also updating our Health and Wellbeing/assembly programme to ensure that we are educating children about this initiative and safer internet/phone use for the future.

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