January 2013

Dear Parents

A belated Happy New Year to you and all your family. I hope you had a restful holiday and that the new term has begun productively and industriously.

Regrettably, I must write again about mobile phones. You will know that our rule about mobile phones is very clear. This has been explained and reiterated to all parents and students prior to joining our community. Despite regular reminders, it is apparent that some students are not adhering to our code of conduct. What is even more worrying, is that parents are sometimes aware that their child is deliberately contravening our rules and expectations.

I have to rely on a strong, loyal and consistent partnership between us. Working together with your cooperation will always ensure the very best outcomes for our students. All of us here at school, need to be secure that you support our best endeavours for your child’s learning, health, safety and well-being.

The very clear and longstanding rule that mobile phones are not permitted at St James’ is based on very simple and straightforward reasoning. Mobile phones in school, the texting, taking of photos, access to websites etc. will obviously disrupt learning and can lead to instances of bullying and miscommunication. These problems can be so easily be avoided. Phones are also expensive items and not having one will undoubtedly mean that our students are less likely to have issues on their journeys between home and school. Our focus must always be on the continued development of our professional learning community. For this to be truly successful all of our stakeholders need to be proactive and supportive of this priority.

Last week, I became aware that students in another school were involved in the sharing of indecent images via their phones. Apparently, this is a craze amongst some young people. Acting upon police advice and instructions, I am letting you all know, that should this problem present itself at our school, phones will be confiscated and handed directly to the police for the matter to be dealt with by them.

Our rules and expectations are clear and maintained for the benefit and safety of our community. If we work co-operatively with each other, then this will be to our mutual advantage.

Please do not allow your child to bring a mobile phone to school.

Yours sincerely

Niamh Arnall
Headteacher