Smartphone-Free Childhood – Bishop's Stortford and Surrounding Villages

Dear Parents/Guardians,
We are writing to share an important update about our school's mobile phone policy, which will come into effect from **September 2027**.

As a group of local primary schools, we have agreed to work together to support a **smartphone-free childhood** and to align our approach with the commitment already being made by our local secondary schools.

From September 2027, **pupils will not be permitted to bring smartphones into school**. This is part of our shared commitment to creating a focused, social and supportive environment where children can learn, develop friendships and enjoy being children.

Smartphones are an important part of modern life and can be useful for staying connected. However, there is increasing evidence of the potential negative impact of early smartphone use on children.

Why are we making this change?

Research has shown the potential impact of smartphones on children includes:

- Poor mental health, including anxiety and low self-esteem.
- Issues with attention, concentration, sleep and online bullying.
- Exposure to harmful or inappropriate content and potentially dangerous individuals.
- The addictive nature of smartphones, which can reduce time spent playing, interacting face-to-face and developing important social skills.

We want children and young people to prioritise learning, friendships and real-world social interaction. By working together across local schools, we hope to reduce the social pressure families can feel to provide a smartphone at an increasingly young age.

What does this mean for your child?

- **From September 2027, children will not be allowed to bring or use smartphones in school.**
- Children in Years 5 and 6 who walk to or from school independently may bring a basic, non-smartphone for safety. These phones do not have internet access and are inexpensive.

We would encourage families to explore the resources available through **Smartphone Free Childhood**, including alternatives to smartphones for children who need to stay in contact with parents.

Thank you for your support as we work together across our local schools to help children stay safe, connected and able to enjoy childhood.

All Saints	**Little Hadham**	**St Andrews**
Avanti Brook	**Mandeville**	**St Josephs**
Avanti Meadows	**Manor Fields**	**St Michaels**
Fawbert & Barnard Infants	**Northgate**	**Summercroft**
Furneux Pelham	**Reedings**	**Thorley Hill**
High Wych	**Richard Whittington**	**Thorn Grove**
Hillmead	**Spellbrook**	**Windhill21**