

Dear Parents,

### **COMMUNICATION - School to Home**

We have become aware that a Facebook page has been set up using our school name without the recognition or backing from the school. Whilst we are confident that this was done with the best of intentions, I am writing to explain why we have insisted that the page is taken down.

Facebook is a social network and as such is a forum accessible and contributed to by a wide audience, which invariably reaches beyond the parameters of our school community. Therefore to ensure pupils, parents and staff are safeguarded against misuse of information, we are required to have firm and professional procedures and policies in systems of communication. These systems must: come directly from school; allow parental response through appropriate channels; be inclusive and accessible to all of our families. As a school, we believe that Facebook does not meet these requirements.

For those unsure, a reminder of our systems of communication:

- Termly/half termly/weekly newsletter
- Additional letters when required
- Telephone
- School website
- Text messaging service
- Open door policy for concerns, questions, queries
- Regular opportunities for parents to attend meetings (pupil, curriculum, intervention)
- Friends of St Mary's

Although we are confident that these channels of communication are generally highly successful, no system is foolproof and we are willing to accept that there may be times in which there is miscommunication between home and school. We would like to believe that these situations can be easily resolved.

The school website URL ([www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk](http://www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk)), is always work in progress, we would welcome any suggestions as to how we may use the website to further aid home-school communication.

Yours Sincerely,

M. T. McMillan  
Headteacher  
Michael Currie  
Chair of Governors