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(VM/DS)



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Dear Parent/Carer

### **Outcome of Golden Time Survey**

As you may be aware primary six and seven pupils and parents/carers as well as staff were surveyed recently regarding primary seven pupils being able to bring in and use devices during golden time on Fridays. Thank you to the many people who took part in the survey either by submitting their responses through the survey link or by answering questions over the phone. There was a very high response rate in each survey group.

The responses were quite mixed between the various groups:

- 89% of pupils want to be able to use devices during golden time. Of the current P7 year group approximately two thirds stated they currently use devices although this is not always reflected on a weekly basis; the majority use them for playing games but they are also used for YouTube, listening to music and social media. No pupils had witnessed or taken part in online bullying or device loss or damage during golden time. 11 pupils said they had witnessed social media being used. Pupils said that they had devices in school for a number of reasons, including: contacting a parent after school, telling the time, to use on bus journeys and due to staying at different places. Pupils were able to list a wide range of things they do to keep themselves safe as well as regarding the use of devices in school. 56% felt they did not want more information on responsible use of the internet and social media.
- The parent group had a much more even split with 48% of parents wanting P7 pupils to have the opportunity to be able to use their devices during golden time. 53% of P7 parents/carers allow their child to use devices during golden time. 54% of all parents allow their child to bring a device to school for reasons other than golden time with broadly similar reasons as pupils given. It was an even split for parents who felt pupils should have access to the internet during golden time and of those who said yes all but one were satisfied that adequate controls were set up on their child's devices and over three quarters of parents were satisfied with the monitoring of internet usage by the school. In relation to device use during golden time 3 parents said their child had witnessed or been involved in bullying, 1 in loss or damage of devices and 11 in use of social media and 72% of respondents said they weren't aware of any of those options having taken place.



- The staff group had mixed views on a number of things. Around a third of staff wanted P7 pupils to be able to use their devices during golden time. Staff felt the benefits of pupils being able to bring in a device from home for use during golden time included being able to intervene and respond to support pupils with issues that arise, allowing pupils to prepare for secondary where the majority of pupils have phones and giving pupils opportunities to play games with their friends or those with common interests.

Many survey respondents took time to contribute comments in their responses, these included:

- 'I don't think children should be exposed to the internet.'
- 'I bring my phone in to check the time down the street'
- 'I both agree and disagree about use of devices during golden time, I think it may cause jealousy between children if some children do not have the "most up to date device". I personally would not like it if my child was the only one without a device when all others have. I would be happy to allow my child to bring something as he understands its value and he looks after it.'
- 'I've been told not to use my phone in class.'
- 'This is a good opportunity to prepare children for bringing phones to school in secondary.'
- 'We prefer that our child takes part in activities such as art, sport, reading or games during this time. Phones and tablets can have plenty of use after school and at weekends.'
- 'My child enjoys using devices with friends and it generates a great deal of laughs, chat and bonding that he otherwise finds difficult because of his additional needs.'
- '[I know] not to talk to strangers or give out passwords to anybody.'

Once the survey responses were collated, it was analysed at a senior management team meeting and the following was decided:

- Primary seven pupils can continue to bring in their own devices for use during golden time. This will be subject to change whenever golden time is considered more widely.
- Pupils will be prohibited from using social media during golden time.
- If their device allows, pupils can access the internet. However, it is often not possible to actually connect to the internet within the school building.
- Pupils who wish to use choose devices for golden time and do not have one or are not allowed to bring a device can have the opportunity to use a school device.
- In line with the mobile devices policy, pupils are not allowed to take any photographs. The policy can be viewed on the school website: <http://www.babreadalbane.mtcserver.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Mobile-phone-policy-final-March2016.pdf>
- Taking effect from 8<sup>th</sup> March pupils will need a written consent in order to bring in and use their own device during golden time. They will also need written consent to take part in using a device belonging to another pupil. This will confirm that parents are aware of and will reinforce the mobile devices policy as well as are satisfied with the parental controls in place on the device.
- To improve communication and set out expectations to parents, for as long as bringing in devices is an option for P7 pupils, this will be communicated in writing to parents along with request for consent at the start of the school year.
- As is current practice, primary pupils cannot use devices within the school day. The only exception is P7 pupils who have written consent for use of their device during golden time.

Despite the majority of pupils feeling they didn't need further learning around internet and safety online this will continue to be an important part of the curriculum. Since the survey, all pupils have taken part in Safer Internet day.

Due to the Estates Review the survey outcomes were not discussed at the Parent Council meeting in January as originally planned but were discussed at the Parent Council meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to all of those who took time to share their views. Thanks must also go to the Parent Council for taking the time and effort to devise questions for each group.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V.L. Marshall". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mrs V Marshall  
**DHT Primary**