



# Menston Primary School

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07.04.17

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been brought to our attention by the Bradford District Cyber Team that some young people are playing a highly dangerous game online. The game is called **The Blue Whale Game** and consists of 50 challenges over 50 days. As the game progresses, children are challenged to 'tattoo' a blue whale somewhere on their body, to self-harm and the final challenge is to commit suicide.

Children in some Bradford schools have been watching YouTube videos about the game and discussing it at school. Whilst we are not aware of this happening at our school, we need to make you aware of the potential signs to look out for as we approach the two-week holiday.

I will take this opportunity to remind you of the e-safeguarding section of our school website <http://menstonprimary.co.uk/learning/e-safeguarding> where we have created some links to the very useful sites: Common Sense Media, the UK Safer Internet Centre, Childnet International, ThinkUKnow and Internet Matters. All of these websites have **essential** advice and guidance for parents to help them to keep their children safe online. Common Sense Media gives information about the age-appropriateness and content of games, films, apps etc. and all of the websites give advice on parental controls, social media, mobile technology and conversations that parents can have with their children about online safety.

Some parents may not be aware, but the recommended minimum age for children to have Instagram, Facebook and YouTube accounts is 13. We support this, as we consider that children younger than this are less able to safeguard themselves on these platforms and not mature enough to deal with any risky or negative situations confidently.

Thank you for your support in working together to keep our children safe online,

Mrs M. Wilson  
Deputy Headteacher