St John's Primary School and Nursery

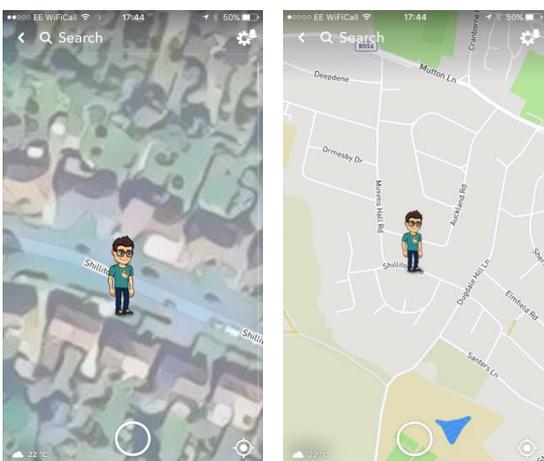**Head Teacher: Mr D Barrow**

Mortimer Road
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 1FS

01926 854450
www.st-johns.warwickshire.sch.uk

27th June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

ONLINE SAFETY UPDATE: SNAPCHAT

As I am sure you are aware, users of Snapchat need to be 13 years or older. Therefore, no children in this school should be using Snapchat (or, indeed, any other form of social media). These age restrictions are in place on social media platforms to help protect and keep our children safe. We know that it is tempting for children to experiment in the online world, and would like to stress again that, if you have made the decision to go against the age restriction, you should ensure that your children's profiles are completely private and that they are adding only offline friends, i.e. friends they know in real life.

Towards the end of last week, Snapchat introduced a map feature that allows users track the **exact location** of each user in real time; I find this extremely concerning. The **'Snap Map'** platform (activated by zooming out on the camera screen in Snapchat) is very visually appealing, using cartoon versions of each user and 'actionmojis', which automatically adapt the avatar. Some people will appear in an animated car, for example.

Users can change whether or not they are visible to others within the app's settings as follows:
1. Open the app and click in the top right hand corner (on the image of the user).
2. A black menu will appear, covering the camera screen. Select the cog in the top right hand corner.
3. The settings menu will be opened. In this menu, scroll down until you see the "who can…" heading.
4. Select 'see my location' and ensure ghost mode is activated.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support.

Mr A Lee
Computing and e-safety Lead