



plains.farm@inspiremultiacademytrust.co.uk
www.plainsfarmacademy.co.uk

Tuesday 8th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important changes to mobile phones and smart devices in school

Following new statutory guidance from the Department for Education, all schools are expected to provide a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day.

From **September 2026**, pupils must not use or have access to mobile phones, smartwatches or other communication devices during the school day. This includes during lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes, clubs and educational visits.

As a primary school, we strongly recommend that children do not bring these devices to school. If you feel it is necessary for your child to bring a mobile phone because they travel to or from school independently, the following expectations will apply:

- The phone must be switched off before the child enters the school grounds.
- It must be handed to a member of staff on arrival.
- It will be stored securely in a mobile phone security box and returned at the end of the school day.
- The phone must not be switched on again until the child has left the school grounds.
- The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss, theft or damage.

Smartwatches or other devices capable of sending or receiving messages, accessing the internet, taking photographs, recording audio or video, or receiving notifications must not be worn or used in school. Children may continue to wear a basic watch that only tells the time.

If a pupil uses or accesses a prohibited device during the school day, it will be confiscated and stored securely. A parent or carer may be required to collect it from the school office. Repeated breaches will be addressed in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

We understand that some children may require access to technology because of a medical condition, disability or additional need. Any exception must be agreed with the Head Teacher in advance, and appropriate reasonable adjustments will be considered individually.



Plains Farm Academy is an Academy operated by Inspire Multi Academy Trust.
Inspire Multi Academy Trust is an exempt charity.
It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number 08287012.
Registered Office address: Archer Road, Farringdon, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR3 3DJ

If you need to contact your child during the school day, please telephone the school office. Likewise, if your child needs to contact you, a member of staff will support them in doing so through the school office. Children do not need access to their personal phones for this purpose. These expectations will help us to:

- Protect pupils from online bullying and inappropriate content.
- Prevent photographs or recordings being taken without permission.
- Reduce distractions and interruptions to learning.
- Support positive relationships and face-to-face interaction.
- Maintain a calm, safe and focused school environment.

We ask all parents and carers to support the school by discussing these expectations with their child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss Cassidy
Head Teacher
Plains Farm Academy**