



1st March 2019

Dear Parents,

Unfortunately I start this letter with something that is distressing but feel that you need to be made aware of the current issues that have been circulating in the media. The Momo Challenge, played via WhatsApp, Facebook and YouTube, is worrying.

National Online Safety (- a group of online safety experts that provides advice for schools - has issued seven useful tips to help anyone who is afraid of what their child might come across.

1. Tell them it's not real

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them.

Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

2. Be present

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online.

This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in.

As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

3. Talk regularly

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you discuss it with them too.

Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

4. Device settings and parental controls

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home.

This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity.

In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety.

For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

5. Peer pressure

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem.

Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline.

If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

6. Real or hoax

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child.

However, not everything you see online is true.

Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

7. Report and block

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material.

People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material.

Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it.

You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it.

Please be vigilant and should you need any further information contact school and we'll be happy to discuss things with you.

P.T.O.

Maths Workshop Wednesday 6th March 2019

Our staff would like to give you a workshop on how we teach (and how children learn) maths in each class. This opportunity will help everyone to become more confident in Maths and ultimately will support all the fantastic work you are doing at home. So please come along and you may be surprised to learn new things that will help your children with their maths progress. The workshop starts at 3.30pm until 4.30pm on Wednesday 6th March 2019 in the School Hall.

World Book Day Thursday 7th March 2019

Reminder that this year we will be celebrating reading through WORDS in a fun way! We will be asking the **children to come to school dressed as any WORD** of their choosing. If you are stuck for ideas have a look on the internet or ask any of the class teachers. We look forward to seeing the imaginative words and interpretations you can come up with.

Head Lice and Nits

Head lice and nits are not something to be ashamed about. It is something that happens to most children during their school life, and even happens to the adults in school too. With a few simple precautions and vigilance, they can easily be avoided and dealt with swiftly.

Here are some websites that can help with information about preventing and dealing with our 'little visitors'.



Please check your child's hair regularly and treat so that together we can try to prevent further cases!
Thank you!

And finally . . .

Reading books aloud to **children** stimulates **their** imagination and expands **their** understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word.

When reading **WITH** your child please ask questions which encourage your child to give their own opinions for example:

How does the character feel?

Why do you think...?

What do you think will happen next? Why?

Do you agree with this/the author's opinion?

How do you feel about this topic? Why?

What do you think about/is your opinion of...?

All of this will make them a better reader and they will build a real depth for their understanding of language and literature.

Even after **children** learn to read by themselves, it's still **important** for you to read aloud together. So **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, listen and read with your child**. Sign the Reading Record to say that they've read and this will help all our children in school too!

Thank you!

School Term Dates:

This is a short term so please note that school will close on **Friday 29th March 2019** and re-open on **Monday 15th April 2019**

Iain M. Lewis
Headteacher