



8.3.19

Internet Safety

Dear Parents and Carers

There currently seems to be inaccurate information being circulated about The Momo Challenge, which is creating unnecessary anxiety for children, parents and professionals. As a school, rather than focusing on Momo we have been advised by the Schools Coordinator for Kingston & Richmond Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to continue to educate children about internet safety and have an open conversation about what children are accessing online.

Please see the information below regarding the worrying profile of Momo, an alleged online game that challenges children to harm themselves.

Social Media and safeguarding issues: Momo Challenge

The Momo Challenge

This challenge is a hoax and does not exist. The following is an excerpt from BBC news

What is 'momo'?

Earlier this week, versions of the momo story went viral on social media. They attracted hundreds of thousands of shares and resulted in newspaper articles reporting the tale.

According to the story, children are contacted on WhatsApp by an account claiming to be momo. They are supposedly encouraged to save the character as a contact and then asked to carry out challenges as well as being told not to tell other members of their family.

Some versions of the tale suggest "hackers" make the image appear on the phone unexpectedly.

The UK Safer Internet Centre told the Guardian that it was "fake news".

However, unofficial copies of cartoons such as Peppa Pig have been uploaded to YouTube with footage of "momo" edited in. Children watching unofficial uploads may therefore be exposed to the distressing images.

Several articles claimed the momo challenge had been "linked" to the deaths of 130 teenagers in Russia. The reports have not been corroborated by the relevant authorities.

To see the full article click [MomoChallenge](#)

The children in Year 1 and 2 have had an assembly today about internet safety to reinforce the messages that we give to our children about keeping safe on the internet. Following this assembly their class teacher has facilitated an open discussion about what children access online.

The key messages that we delivered in assembly today about internet safety were:

- Always ask a grown-up for help if you see anything strange, unusual or worrying.
- Don't download or install anything without asking a grown-up first.
- Remember, not all games and videos are for children.
- Don't talk to strangers online and don't tell them where you live.
- If you are ever unsure what to do, remember always ask for help!

Children in Reception did not attend assembly but will be having the discussion with their class teacher about the important rules for keeping safe online.

We will continue to educate children about using the internet safely and encourage parents and carers to do the same as well as ensuring that children are provided with opportunities to talk about their experiences online.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Claire Tester

Head of School

Hampton Infant School and Nursery