28th February 2019

Our Ref: HP7476

Dear Parent

You may be aware of the recent press around the ‘Momo Challenge’.

Momo is a sinister ‘challenge’ that has actually been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the ‘suicide killer game’, Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly)… YouTube Kids. It threatens the player if they refuse to follow 'orders' and there are claims some of the threats include children being “killed in their sleep”, and users are told to harm themselves and even kill themselves.

Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they are reported and removed. It is difficult to spot these videos, as the harmful content doesn’t appear until partway through the video. Even using child friendly sites/apps and parental controls do not filter out this content.

If your child uses any device that connects to the internet, they are potentially at risk of being exposed to this content so we are advising that their online activity is supervised by an adult**.**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. A copy of their guidance is printed on the back of this letter.

If you are concerned about your child or would like any further advice, please speak to your child’s Class Teacher or a member of our Safeguarding Team.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Sandhu

Head of School