

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been brought to our attention that there is a current craze of scary clips sweeping the internet known as 'The Momo Challenge'. These clips are hidden within sites on the internet and are of a distorted lady asking children to carry out harmful acts.

We are writing to ask that, as always, you remain attentive when your children are online. We are sending out the guidance below (elements of which have been received from Northamptonshire County Council's Online safety officer – Simon Aston) to support you as you deal with this current craze.

- Please remain **calm**, crazes like this can sweep the internet fuelled more by the media than what is actually happening around us.
- **Speak directly** with your child(ren) about keeping safe online and remind them to tell an adult straight away if they see something that makes them feel uncomfortable **no matter what it is telling them**.
- Stress that **not everything you see online is real** often things are made up.
- **Praise** your child for sharing with you, if they have seen something unpleasant online.
- Always **speak calmly** to your child(ren) about where they are going online
- Do not get mad at your child(ren) about this, but **be curious**. Ask lots of "how" questions and not "why" questions. For example "how are you going to keep safe on YouTube?"
- Continue to spread **positive** online safety messages especially on social media, unreliable sources and poor advice is being circulated currently on social media.
- Make sure YouTube at home is being used near an adult (**digital Zones**) with a time limit (**digital sunsets**)
- Bedrooms should be **digital free zones**
- Model and speak with your child(ren) about how to keep safe online (**digital role models**)
- This is a wonderful time to promote family agreements at home, the agreements can be found on [Childnet International](#)

Further guidance is available from the [National Online Safety website](#). This website contains a huge amount of information about safeguarding your children online and we will be sharing different factsheets with you over the coming weeks so watch out for these.

If you require any more support, please do not hesitate to speak with your class teacher or a senior member of staff. We are here to help.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ann Davey'.

Ann Davey – Executive Headteacher