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Dear Parents and Carers,

Online safety - MoMo

It has been brought to our attention that some of our younger children have inadvertently been watching hacked videos on YouTube where videos of a character called MoMo pop up in harmless children's videos such as Peppa Pig and Paw Patrol.

MoMo is a sinister looking female avatar that encourages children to play a 'game', which eventually leads them to be told to take their own life. MoMo threatens to harm family members if children tell anyone about the 'game'. The real threat that MoMo possesses is unclear which is why we need to be vigilant. There is much reported information in the media, however the actual risk is hard to gauge.

MoMo references and images can be found on WhatsApp, YouTube, Instagram and through search engines so an awareness of what your child is doing online is essential in protecting them. If you or your child experiences MoMo please report it to the relevant media platform.

In agreement with the NSPCC, we strongly recommend that you speak to your children about keeping themselves safe online and you may also want to check your parental controls and search histories. Many excellent tips and guidance can be found on the NSPCC's website on how to do this. These can be accessed at www.nspcc.org. On Facebook, there is also a resource 'EST E-Safety' which can give you, as parents, excellent tips to keep your child safe online. Finally, CEOP has many superb resources to help your child understand e-safety in a fun, interactive way and there is also a section with advice for parents: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

David Barnett
Headteacher

'Inspiring everyone, learning together, achievement for all'

