



February 2019

CASTLE HILL PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



5/6M Space Adventures!



Class 5/6M celebrated the end of their Earth in Space module with some brilliant Learning Log work: we had poems, paintings, 3D models of planets, orrery creations and even Mars Rover-type inventions! A 'design your own planet' competition with posters was also really popular with nine designs being entered this week into a competition to win a telescope.



Reception Mini Olympics

Reception had a fantastic time at mini Olympics. They had the opportunity to complete against other schools in Todmorden. The children were brilliantly behaved and showed real sportsmanship throughout. They came 2nd!



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Mexican Fiesta for KS1

On Wednesday 13th February, KS1 had an exciting end to the half term. They walked to the market to buy ingredients for Mexican recipes. The market stall holders were really helpful - answering their questions, showing their stock, and even giving the children some of the ingredients that were needed for free! The children all came away with a sense of community and appreciated how nice it was to use our local suppliers.

On Friday 15th KS1 held their Mexican Fiesta. In the morning, the children practiced their cutting, peeling, chopping, kneading and mashing skills, as well as weighing and measuring to prepare tacos, guacamole and salsa. They also decorated pinatas. In the afternoon everyone tried a part of the feast and had a great time trying to win sweets from the pinatas and showing off their best Carnival dancing!



World Book Day

Just a reminder that next Thursday is World Book Day. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite character, or just bring in their favourite book. I look forward to seeing all their creations. The children will also receive their £1 book token.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>



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4/5C Visit To Liverpool World Museum

Written by Ava Pearman and Thomas Shaw

On Monday the 11th of February 2019 , 4/5C had a sensational day. We went to Liverpool World Museum to take part in a workshop all about our topic Ancient Egypt.

During the workshop, we had a once in a lifetime opportunity to handle some authentic artefacts from the Ancient Egypt times. We did some lovely activities during the workshop and we also had a great time looking at the magnificent mummies in the exhibition hall .

Near the exit of the hall, there was a huge map of upper and lower Egypt. It had information about the cities, all the way down the River Nile and included The Valley of the Kings and Queens .

We completed a quiz which had lots of questions about the artefacts in the exhibition. We had such a great day! Lots of us were so tired that we fell asleep on the coach on the way home!



Online Safety

I have attached some details to the end of this email regarding MOMO. The children have been spoken to and it has been reiterated that they must tell their parents if they come across anything online that makes them feel anxious. There is a website available call Kiddle (www.kiddle.co.uk) that can be used a search engine (it is supported by Google) and it prevents the appearance of things that are not suitable for them.



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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 6th March	5/6M Viking Archaeology Day 3.30pm - Maths Workshop for Reception parents
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Friday 8th March	3/4H Science Trip - Manchester Museum
Monday 11th March	1.30pm Open Afternoon - Parents welcome in classes
Thursday 14 th March	PM KS2 Swimming Gala
Friday 15th March	Year 5 Fire Safety Talk
Mon 18 th March - Wed 20 th	Year 6 Residential
Tuesday 26th March	New Nursery Children - Open Day
Wednesday 27th March	Year 4 - Trip to Halifax Proms, Victoria Theatre
Friday 29th March	Artist working with Year 6
Tuesday 2nd April	3.30pm - 7.00pm Parents' Evening
Wednesday 3 rd April	Class Photographs
Thursday 4 th April	High 5 Netball Tournament: Todmorden High School
Friday 5th April	Craft Morning - Reception Class
Thursday 11th April	3.30pm - 7.00pm Parents' Evening
Friday 12th April	Year 2 & 3 Transition project - Norse Myths by Arty Physical
Friday 12 th April	3.30pm Break for Easter
Monday 29 th April	Back to school
Thursday 2 nd May	INSET DAY 3 Polling Day: School Closed
Friday 3 rd May	INSET DAY 4: School Closed
Monday 13 th - Fri 17 th May	Year 6 SATS week
Wednesday 15th May	Foundation Stage Trip to Manchester Airport
Monday 20 th May	Year 6 Art Exhibition at Platform One
Thursday 23rd May	Kwik Cricket Competition - TCC
Thursday 23 rd May - Friday 24 th May	Year 4 Residential
Friday 24 th May	3.30pm Break for Half term
Monday 3 rd June	Back to school
Thursday 13th June	U11s Football - Walsden playing field
Monday 17th June	1.30pm Open Afternoon for parents
Sunday 30th June	11.00am -1.00pm PFA Summer Fair
Monday 1st July	Year 4 visiting Todmorden High School
Friday 19th July	School closes for Summer Holidays



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It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created to this guide to raise awareness of the issue and offer advice on helping parents to talk to their children about making safer decisions online. See also our '7 conversation starters' guide for more tips on better communication with your child.



Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has 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. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

What parents need to know about

MOMO

CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitors and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

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.

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.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

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.

DEVICE SETTINGS & 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' or videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

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.

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.

REPORT & 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. Also encourage your child to record/submit any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is 0800 1111.



SOURCES:
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-47191707> Reported video youtube.com/watch?v=146Q21W
<https://www.cdf.gov.uk>
<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/uk-mommo-videos-47191707>