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26th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

E-Safety Concerns – Please Read

'MOMO Challenge'

There have been reports of the MOMO Challenge in countries across the world, including the UK, and the 'game' has been linked to the suicide of a 12-year old girl. The MOMO Challenge is spread via social media sites and messaging services such as Facebook and WhatsApp. Children receive messages from unknown numbers or contacts along with the image of a doll figure with bulging eyes and a sinister grin. The messages contain 'challenges' including self-harm, violence against others and suicide. In some circumstances, children's families have been threatened if challenges are not completed. Children may deny knowing about this if you ask them as they are told not to tell for fear of repercussions.

Please monitor your child's use of social media closely and if you have any concerns please:

- Explain to your child that you are there to talk to if they have any concerns or worries about online content.
- Talk to your child about this 'challenge' and ensure they block any unknown numbers or contacts.
- Tell your child that no one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do.
- Make sure your child does not feel pressurised into playing these 'games' and explain that the doll character is not real.
- Tell your child not to share any personal information online.
- Be aware of age-restrictions on social media platforms your children may use.
- Ensure privacy settings on any social media platforms your children uses are set to private.

Alternative versions of cartoons

Please be aware that some well-known children's cartoons available on YouTube and other video-hosting sites often contain links to 'alternative' versions of the



cartoons that contain adult-content including violence and death. These cartoons, including Peppa Pig and Paw Patrol, look the same as the originals and have the same music and introductions so your child will not necessarily be aware they have accessed anything inappropriate.

YouTube has a 'Restricted Mode' you can activate in settings that can help to hide potentially mature content – but please remember no filter is 100% accurate. Please ensure you closely monitor your children's use of YouTube and other video streaming services to protect them from harmful content.

Kind regards,

Davie Kindon
(E-Safety Lead)

