



Noadswood

Fit for learning, fit for life

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Cyber Safety – our continued commitment to our pupils being safe and healthy online

Following an alert from one of our linked schools, I wanted to make you aware of an online safeguarding concern about which there has been coverage in the news and social media. The concern regards online encouragement of a series of challenges called, 'Momo challenge'. I have been notified that parents/carers are unable to block this on parental controls and therefore would ask you to look at the link below and then discuss with your son or daughter the dangers and concerns of engaging in such challenges.

This link will take you to a brief, but really helpful, explanation:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/three-minute-briefing-momo-challenge>

We know of one or two pupils who have already spoken to us about their worries about this – and about the similar 'Blue Whale' game (also worth discussing with pupils) - and the pressures it attempts to exert on young people. I would love to feel that EVERY parent/carer has discussed this openly with their child(ren) and had a good look, as appropriate, on any of their devices where it might have been accessed.

It's also worth you knowing that children are unexpectedly being exposed to disturbing/distressing images and requests to contact MOMO, it having been being spliced into regular children's videos such as Peppa Pig and Fortnite videos on YouTube and KidsTube without their knowledge or wish- so do keep an eye on what your youngsters are watching, and ask them to do the same.

Thank you in advance for your support and openness on this matter, and if you have any information you'd like to share with us, don't hesitate to contact me on: headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk or your child's tutor or House Leader.

With thanks for your continued support with these important matters for our youngsters' happiness and wellbeing,

Yours sincerely,

Miss K Marshall
Headteacher