



FOUR ELMS
PRIMARY SCHOOL

28 February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

It has come to our attention that some of our children are talking about 'MoMo'. This has come from a small group of children in KS2 but may affect others. The 'game' is called 'MoMo' and can be accessed via websites or apps such as Whatsapp. Whatsapp is currently only allowed for those over the age of 16 years old. Facebook is for those over 13 years old.

MoMo is a sinister looking female avatar that is part of a game. It is understood that the child may need to create an account to access MoMo fully. Momo gives instructions to the players as part of the game. The game eventually results in the avatar suggesting that the person takes their own life. 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.

Even without the game downloaded, MoMo references and images can be found on sites such as YouTube and through search engines so an awareness of what your child is doing online is essential in protecting them.

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/>.

In addition to this, at the bottom of our school website homepage I have added a bulletin about e-safety which will provide you with links and articles about how to keep your child safe online.

I would advise you to deal with this in a similar way to chainmail. No nonsense, calm and supportive:

- If your child is Googling the image, talk to them about why they are looking for it. Be curious, kind and calm.
- Ask them not to share it with younger children who may find it extremely frightening.
- If they become aware that there is a texting dare game associated with it, you will need to have an open and honest conversation about how it can be dangerous, without scaring them.

- Don't make it specific about this latest game, but make it easier for them to spot by explaining that all of these dare games are severe form of Cyberbullying, and that online bullies are trying to take advantage of vulnerable people.
- Tell them how being scared of it, and spreading fearful gossip about it increases the power of the game. It will also increase the chance that someone will believe in it, and do the things they are told to because they are vulnerable, or may not have sensible parents helping them through it.
- Tell them how it is illegal for someone to send a person a text trying to make them hurt themselves.
- Make sure they know they can come to you if they are worried, and remind them how to block and report text numbers that are abusive, threatening and manipulative.
- Encourage them to support their friends with speaking to trusted adults about it, and not to spread the rumours.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes
Miss McCann
Head of School