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Friday 8th March 2019
Updated Guidance for Parents re Internet Use for Children

Dear parents/carers,

Following media coverage at the beginning of March many parents may have been concerned as to their child's wellbeing whilst playing online. It remains unclear as to the extent that we need to continue to be concerned with regards to the Momo Challenge which has been reported on. What is clear is it is very important that our children do not access unsuitable sites which can be easily available to search for on You Tube, Kids You Tube and via WhatsApp. Unfortunately, filters on most computers have not been set to stop children accessing inappropriate material until or unless parents or carers alter the settings.

We therefore encourage you to monitor your child's activity online carefully. Setting age-appropriate boundaries is always important. Younger children should not be using social networking and chat apps at all, and should be supervised when watching videos on sites like YouTube. With older children, it may be appropriate for them to use social media and WhatsApp to talk to their friends, although their networks should be private and they should avoid talking to people they don't know.

We do not want to worry children unnecessarily but we want to ensure that all our children understand the importance of online safety. For further information please see: <https://www.kidscape.org.uk/news/2019/march/the-momo-challenge-what-parents-need-to-know/>

This will lead you to an article entitled "Protecting your child on-line" and is recommended for parents.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A. Banks
Headteacher.



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