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(Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Hollin Primary School **Newsletter – March 2019**

This is the second newsletter that we've sent electronically. Unless requested, paper copies will not be sent as we're trying our best to reduce the amount of paper we use. This newsletter will also be available on the school website www.hollin.rochdale.sch.uk and on our Twitter page @HollinPrimary

WORLD BOOK DAY

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 8th March**.

As in previous years, we are encouraging children to dress up as a book character on this day. This year, we are asking for children to dress up, if possible, as a character from a Roald Dahl book. Rather than expensive "one off" costumes, there is plenty of time to make an inexpensive costume using an idea from one of the following websites.

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/roald-dahl-dressing-up-costumes>

<https://www.mumsnet.com/books/easy-roald-dahl-costumes>

MOTHER'S DAY

On Friday 29th March, as we have done in previous years, we will be inviting mums and female carers/relatives to a special Mothers' Day event.

PARENTS' EVENING

Parents Evening will take place on **Tuesday 19th March**.

Appointment letters have already been sent home.

Please return the reply slip as soon as possible.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We expect all children to wear our school uniform with pride and we value the support we receive from parents. Our school uniform is as follows:

- Blue sweatshirt or cardigan.
- Yellow polo shirt.
- Grey trousers or skirt (dresses are acceptable in the summer).

It would help us greatly if your child's name could be added to all items.

FOOTWEAR

Please ensure that your child comes to school in footwear that conforms to the school uniform policy, which states black footwear. Children who participate in lunchtime sports activities are encouraged to bring a change of footwear for lunchtimes if they wish. Where these standards fall short of our expectations, we will be making contact with parents.

CHOIR

A huge well done to our choir who finished 1st in a competition at Rochdale Town Hall. Everyone is incredibly proud of such an outstanding achievement. Thank you to Mr Warren for his help and guidance.



STAFFING

We warmly welcome Miss Burnside to the Hollin staff team. Miss Burnside will be working in our Reception class.

OUR NURSERY

Was your child born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016? Please call into the school office, and complete an application form, to secure your child's Nursery place for September 2019. We only have a small number of places available.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of any pupils, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Iddon (Children's Welfare Officer).

E SAFETY

There have been a number of recent press reports about MOMO. Please see the guide below.

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 'cut and 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 monitor 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 reactions 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.

Top Tips for Parents

NOS National Online Safety

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' on 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/screenshot 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.nos.org.uk/news/news/press-releases/video-youtube-youtube-kids-1402116>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-54720962>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-54720962>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Phone - 0800 368 8061

SPORTS NEWS

Our after school sports provision goes from strength to strength. In addition to thanking your children for competing so well against children from other schools, thanks also needs to be extended to Mr Vyse and Mrs Jones.

Table Tennis

Children from Year 3 and 4 took part in a recent table tennis tournament organised by Middleton Primary School Sports Association (MPSSA).

The boys won a bronze, silver and gold medal.

The girls won a bronze and a gold medal.

In addition, Hollin won the overall school trophy. Well done.



Basketball

A team of basket ballers finished runners up in a competition hosted by St Anne's Academy. Well done to them.





ATTENDANCE



Before half term, 204 children, from Year 1 to Year 6, took part in our special attendance celebration.

To qualify for the next special attendance reward, your child will need to have no more than one day absent from Monday 25th February to Friday 5th April.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to improve attendance.

Number of weekly wins this academic year

Yr 1	Yr 2B	Yr 2C	Yr 3M	Yr 3S	Yr 4C	Yr 4M	Yr 5	Yr 6
7	1	1	1	2	4	1	3	7



HOUSE POINTS



Number of weekly wins this academic year

RED	GREEN	BLUE	YELLOW
5	5	5	6

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

If you are entering the playground, your children are still under your supervision until the doors open and staff welcome them. Although tempting, please do not allow your children to play on the playground equipment. It is only to be used during school hours under the supervision of authorised school personnel. Any person using the equipment, who is not being supervised by authorised school personnel, does so entirely at their own risk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 8th March

World Book Day

Friday 15th March

4th Learning Log task to be given out

Tuesday 19th March

Parents' Evening

Friday 29th March

Mothers' Day Event

4th Learning Log task to be returned

Week commencing Monday 1st April

The Life Education Bus will be visiting school

Friday 5th April

Special Attendance Celebration
Break up for Easter

Tuesday 23rd April

School reopens for the 1st summer term

Monday 7th May

Bank Holiday – School is closed

Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May

Year 6 SATS

Friday 24th May

Break up for half term

Monday 3rd June

School reopens for the 2nd summer term