



Stonebow
Every Child Matters Every Day Counts

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are probably aware, there have recently been many stories in the press and across social media about the so-called MOMO Challenge.

Firstly, we would like to reassure you that this is fundamentally a hoax, created to gain attention and spread by playing on parents' understandable fears about their children's safety. Further information about the hoax can be found in the two news articles below.

www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/feb/28/schools-police-and-media-told-to-stop-promoting-momo-hoax

www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-47393510

However, as can happen with these things, there are people who have jumped on the bandwagon and have made videos about it, which are sometimes appearing in children's suggested video feeds on YouTube and, because of the stories around MOMO and the scary nature of the picture it uses, this can be distressing for them. There may be further things that people do off the back of this but hopefully, the more the news spreads that it is a hoax, the quicker it will all die down.

If your child sees this, please reassure them that it is not real and the fact that the video appears in their suggested videos does not mean that anybody is trying to harm them or 'challenge' them. The online safety rules we have all been speaking to them about at school remain the same, as does our advice to you as parents and carers. Please be vigilant about what your children are doing and viewing whilst they are online; discuss with them what they have been learning about online safety in school; and encourage them to speak openly with you about any concerns they have, reassuring them that they will not be in trouble.

If you have any concerns or questions about the above, or any aspect of online safety, please just speak to your child's teacher.

Warm regards,

Jacqui Garton

Digital Eagles/E Safety Team Leader

