



Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School (Buckhurst Hill)
Registered Charity No: 1177779 (C. I. O.)
St. Stephen's Church Hall, Albert Road
Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 6FD
info@noahspreschool.org 020-8505-5828

Newsletter

28th February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

This Sunday at St. John's Church, Buckhurst Hill there will be another Messy Church. If you have never been before, it usually starts inside the church with a song and bible story, then we go over to the main hall and get messy with some craft that relates to the story. It is an enjoyable morning and all are welcome – please note that you need to stay with your child(ren).

Hope to see you there!





Please leave your child at the door with our staff and allow them to go in without you. The children are safe and by coming into Pre-School on their own, they gain a little independence. This helps towards preparing them for school.

Please remember to ring us on 020-8505-5828 to let us know if your child is not able to attend on their usual days.

Thank you to everyone who gave sensory items and junk modelling. We still need more newspaper please.

Regency Lodge

We will be visiting Regency Lodge Retirement Place on Monday 11th March at 10am. We will be taking 8 busy bee children and will need help with the visit. If you will be able to assist on the day, please speak to Fran.

Momo

You may have heard about the Momo online videos through the news.

If you haven't here is a quick explanation:

The 'Momo' character is symbolised by a woman with grotesque features and bulging eyes. The Momo challenge begins with a shadowy controller sending violent images to a child over WhatsApp or online games. They threaten the youngster if they refuse to follow 'orders'. There are claims some of these threats include the player being "killed in their sleep" and their family coming to harm. The child is sent instructions on how to harm themselves and others - and some have even been told to kill themselves. The challenge may appear midway through a video or game.

The latest news says that Momo is being uploaded to appear during innocent Youtube clips such as Peppa Pig. Please be vigilant with your child using IT, as these images are very disturbing. NOS (National Online Safety) have released a top tips guide for parents, which you will find below.

It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created 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 'suicide 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 reaction 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.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents

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 to 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.ninjal.co.uk/news/world-news/sick-video-youtube-youtube-kids-14052196>
<https://www.MAL.co.uk>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47339623>



Today the Busy Bees did some fruit tasting. They tried pomegranate, avocado, pear, lemon and lime. They coloured in a happy face if they liked the taste and a sad face if they didn't like it.



Frogspawn

We have some frogspawn in the garden and will be watching it closely to learn about the life cycle of frogs. When they are grown we will be looking for a home for them, so if you have a big pond please let us know if you would like some frogs!

Garden update

As you will have seen, our garden has had some work done in it.

The wooden fencing has two purposes. One to provide a little privacy and block some of the noise and fumes from the road and two to enable us to attach things to it. We are aiming to have a water wall, mud kitchen, planting area, weighing scales, outdoor signage, a den, maths, literacy and more in the garden. We are very excited about it – but the fencing alone has cost us a lot of money. So, we will be fundraising again for the garden – if you have any fundraising ideas or you just want to donate some money towards it, please speak to Jo Hazell.



Parent Garden Club

We would like to have a parent garden club. This would involve a group of parents who are willing to take control of keeping the site tidy. It would mainly require weeding, sweeping and the occasional trip to the dump. In particular the fire escape alley gets very overgrown quickly and we cannot keep on top of it – can you help?

God bless.

Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School

Taste & see that the Lord is good.
Psalm 34:8

