



Weekly Newsletter



Friday 1st March 2019

Welcome back to

SCHOOL

We hope you all had a fantastic half term break and are refreshed and ready for a busy term ahead.

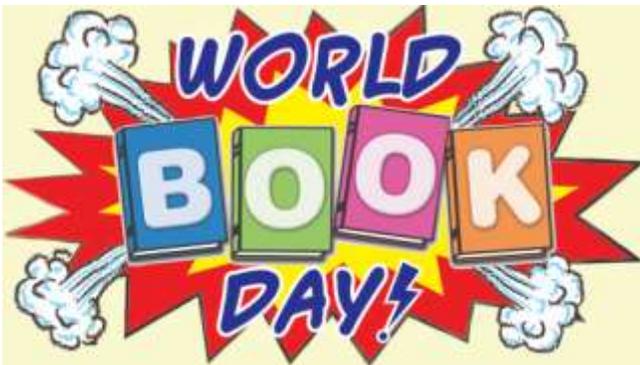
Please remember to ensure children are dressed in full school uniform and bring the appropriate PE kit to schools including a pair of trainers.



As part of World Book day, we are holding a book fair. This is an opportunity for you to buy books to keep those book worms happy, while helping raise money for additional books in school.

The book fair will be held in the junior library on Thursday 7th Friday 8th , Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th of March.

Please do come and purchase a book for your children.



It's time to be creative. **Thursday 7th March** is World Book Day and we are inviting all children to get dressed up as one of their favourite book characters. **Who will you be?** We will be taking photographs of the children and creating a display of the wonderful array of costumes we cannot wait to see.

There will be a range of events occurring across the week encouraging the children to develop a love for reading.

We have two author visits a historical author on Thursday and a poet on Friday.

Children will be given lots of opportunities to read and will also have opportunities to develop their own writing.

Art History in the making

On Wednesday a Tate Photographer visited RPS to take photos of all year 3 children. They are part of an ambitious contemporary art piece designed by Turner prize winning artist and Oscar-winning film maker Steve McQueen. Our children have now taken their part in the challenge as the Tate take photographs of as many year 3 London children as possible. The class photos will be brought together into a single large-scale installation, capturing tens of thousands of Year 3 school children in a milestone year in their development. We cannot wait to see the final display.



(Steve McQueen frieze)

Beware - Momo Challenge

You may be aware of the disturbing social media challenge targeting children called the '**Momo Challenge**'. There have been many reports about this challenge in the press and on social media. Some RPS children have reported to us that they have seen the Momo Challenge appear in ads while using apps and the internet on their phones and devices.

We consider it important to make you aware of this challenge and encourage you to monitor your child's use of social media and the internet, and to discuss any concerns or worries with them.

How it works: Children receive a message request on Whatsapp from an unknown number. A doll-like character then sends violent images and escalating dares, which include self-harming and tell them she will 'curse them' if they do not follow her instructions to harm others or themselves

The challenge is also reported to conceal itself within popular online games such as Fortnite and then can appear on screens in the form of a pop-up. Young children are reportedly being targeted through 'you tube' while watching seemingly harmless cartoons such a Peppa pig. The character is very creepy. Google trends show the number of people in the UK, searching 'how to play the Momo challenge' is up by more than 450 per cent.
We ask you to be vigilant.

What to do next?

1. Tell them it's not real

Although it may seem obvious, the National Online Safety (NOS) has stressed the importance of telling your child that the game isn't real.

Children can be easily frightened or distressed by horror stories or urban myths and this is no different.

Making it clear to your child that Momo is not a real person and can't hurt them will calm them down.

It's also important to tell your child not to go searching for the Momo content.

2. Be present

The online safety advice organisation says it's vital to be present while your children are online.

As part of the game, each task becomes progressively worse, so it's important to look out for and recognise any behavioural changes your child may show. This will give you a much better understanding of what they are seeing and doing so you can talk and support them.

3. Talk regularly with your child

Make sure you talk about the game openly with your child. This will give you a better understanding of their online behaviours and will help your child feel comfortable in coming forward with any concerns they have.

It's important to be able to have honest and frequent conversations with your child about the online world.

4. Device settings and parental controls

Make sure you set up parental controls on all your devices at home. This will ensure that your child won't be able to view certain types of content and will enable you to monitor their activity.

The NOS says it's important to be aware of your device and account settings to ensure their safety. It refers to an example on YouTube where you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to prevent your children from viewing things they haven't directly chosen to watch.

5. Peer pressure

The NOS says even scary and distressing viral challenges can be tempting to children.

It advises parents to talk to their children about resisting peer pressure and not doing anything they don't feel comfortable with.

Tell your child to talk to you or another trusted adult if they feel unsure about something online.

6. Real or hoax?

Not everything online is true, and the NOS says it's important to check the validity of sources and be mindful of what you share as it could cause more worry and harm.

7. Report and block

While parental controls are often helpful, they can't always be relied on to block potentially harmful content.

The NOS advise that you flag and report any content you deem to be distressing, inappropriate or harmful as soon as you see it.

It's also important to block the account to prevent your child from coming across it.

The organisation recommends encouraging your child to record or screenshot any material they feel could be distressing and providing this to the appropriate channels to investigate.



Dates for your Diaries!

1 st March	Secondary school places emailed to parents after 5 pm
Week starting 4 th March	SEN parents' meetings Mock phonics tests
6 th March	Year 6 police workshop
7 th March	World Book Day
Week starting 11 th March	British Science Week
14 th March	Urban debate mate round 2
15 th March	Red Nose Day
22 nd March	Athletics competition day
1 st April	KS1 Achievement Awards at 11:15 Year 1 -6 Parent's Evening 3:15- 4:30
2 nd April	KS2 Achievement Awards at 11:30 Nursery Parent's Evening 3:15- 4:30
3 rd April	Reception Parent's Evening 3:15 4:30
5 th Apr	Attendance Awards Last day of term finish at 2pm
23rd April	Children return to school

Conflict Resolution

During assembly this week the School Council chair Hasna and vice chair Alim, explained how the peer mediators use **conflict resolution** to help children to resolve their conflicts.

1. Find a strategy to calm down
2. Take time to understand and listen to each other- take responsibility and be honest
3. Apologise well – mean it and ask for forgiveness
4. Find a solution



You are warmly invited to attend your child's class performance.

Key Stage 1 Assemblies Time: 11:15 am

Wednesday 6th March Octopus

Key Stage 2 Assemblies Time 11:30 am

Wednesday 6th March Cutty Sark

Wednesday 13th March Endurance

Wednesday 27th March Pearl

Wednesday 3rd April Kingfisher

Safeguarding at Rotherhithe

Keeping children safe is of utmost importance to us at Rotherhithe. We have recently updated our safeguarding policy. Please read it at <http://rotherhitheprimary.co.uk/>



Respectful to all



Look after our school!

Attendance

The classes with the best attendance for this week are:

KS1: Seahorse Class - 100%

KS2: Discovery Class – 98.3%



Amazing! keep up the good work everyone!!

Please **do not** book holidays during term time. This negatively affects your children's education.



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 '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 halfway 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 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.bbc.com/news/health-56101416
https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56101416
https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56101416

Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children

0-5 Year Olds

Checklist

Put yourself in control

Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting internetmatters.org.

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines as well as YouTube. You can find out more at google.co.uk/safetycentre.

Set boundaries

It's never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices and start to introduce the subject of internet safety at the same time. Encourage children to use devices in a communal area, keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they can't go online without asking you first.

Pre-school children are online for an average of 71 minutes a day*

1/2

Over half of 3-4 year olds use tablets*

Explore together

Set your homepage to a child-friendly site such as CBeebies and give them a user account which only allows access to sites and apps you've chosen.

Help them learn through games

Games are a great way for young children to explore the internet and learn about the world around them. You can choose safe, fun and educational games free of charge from providers such as Fisher Price or about their favourite characters like Peppa Pig.

Children can now have a digital footprint before they learn to speak and often before they're even born.

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online as they grow up - with information, advice and support on all the big e-safety issues.

internet
matters.org

Online safety tips for parents of primary school children 6-10 Year Olds

Checklist

✓ Put yourself in control

Make use of the parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting internetmatters.org.

✓ Search safely

Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines as well as YouTube. You can find out more at google.co.uk/safetycentre.

✓ Agree boundaries

Be clear what your child can and can't do online - where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet.

✓ Explore together

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about it. Encourage them to use devices in communal areas so you can see what sites they're visiting and share with them.

✓ Check if it's suitable

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. The minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook and Instagram.

Over 65 % of parents are most concerned about their 6-10 viewing inappropriate content online*



Know this stuff matters, but don't know where to turn?

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online - with information, advice and support on all the big e-safety issues.

**internet
matters.org**

*Source: Children's online safety in 2016 report. Commissioned by Internet Matters by Opinion Leader

Learn about it:

Teach your child some simple rules

- Make sure your child knows not to share personal information like their phone number or email address online
- Only talk to real life friends or family if they are on sites with a social media element like Moshi Monsters or Club Penguin
- Use privacy settings wherever they exist to keep their information private
- Be a good online friend and don't say nasty things even if it's just a joke
- Use secure and legal sites to download music and games
- Check attachments and pop ups for viruses before they click or download anything
- Use Public Friendly WiFi when they're out and about to filter inappropriate content
- Help them to better understand the different online platforms they use and judge the quality and reliability of online resources

Talk about it:

Tips for a meaningful conversation

- Start conversations when your children won't be embarrassed, for example in the car going home from school
- Ask them for advice on how to do something online and use this as a conversation starter
- Make sure they know they can come to you if they're upset by something they've seen online
- Be sensitive and praise them when they share their online experiences with you
- If your child comes to you with an issue, stay calm and listen without judging them
- Talk about online grooming as you would stranger danger and explain that people they meet online might not be who they say they are
- Ask them about things online which might make them uncomfortable



Deal with it

You can find out where to get help and advice on the Report it page of internetmatters.org, where we include information on how to report problems - and which relevant organisations and agencies to turn to.

On this page, we also provide information on how to deal with any specific issues you may encounter with your child; such as finding inappropriate content and cyberbullying.

Stay safe at secondary school

Exposure to some of these issues increases when children move up to secondary school so make sure your child is prepared - find out more with our pre-teens age guide at internetmatters.org/ageguide10-13

**internet
matters.org**

Phonics workshop for parents

Parents in Year 1 are invited to our second phonics workshop

- Would you to know more about how phonics is taught in school?
- Would you like useful resources to help support phonics teaching at home?

Find out how the **year 1** phonics screen is administered in June.

Please come to our phonics workshop on

Friday 8th March

at 9:15 am in the Infant Hall

Free Resources and tips available.

