



Horn's Mill  
Primary School

***Believe, Inspire, Flourish***

Horn's Mill Primary School  
Denbigh Close  
Helsby  
Cheshire

WA60ED

28.02.2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **INTERNET SAFETY**

Many of you have made me aware of some recent information being shared on social media reporting a challenge targeting children and young adults called the "Momo Challenge."

This has created concern throughout the country due to the disturbing nature of the images that are being shared. However, to reassure you, the NSPCC and Samaritans have dismissed the claims, saying that there is no evidence that the Momo challenge had initially caused any harm. However, their concerns are that ensuing media hysteria could now put vulnerable children at risk or cause anxiety to children. For more information follow this link:

[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/feb/28/viral-momo-challenge-is-a-malicious-hoax-say-charities?CMP=fb\\_gu](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/feb/28/viral-momo-challenge-is-a-malicious-hoax-say-charities?CMP=fb_gu)

Please reassure your child/ren that "Momo" doesn't exist, and that they shouldn't be worried about it. This is what we will be doing in school.

Due to this happening though, I thought it would be timely to remind you of some advice re internet safety for your children.

A spokesperson for the NSPCC said:

"The constantly evolving digital world means a steady influx of new apps and games that can be hard for parents to keep track of. That's why it's important for parents to talk regularly with children about these apps and games and the potential risks they can be exposed to."

The NSPCC publishes advice and guidance for parents on discussing online safety with their children, as well as Net Aware - the UK's only parental guide to social media and gaming apps."

Among the most common signs to watch out for include children who:

- Become very secretive, especially about what they are doing online
- Are spending a lot of time on the internet and social media
- Are switching screens on their device when approached
- Are withdrawn or angry after using the internet or sending text messages
- Have lots of new phone numbers or email addresses on their devices

If adults are concerned or have any questions on how to approach the subject with their children, they can contact the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or [visit the NSPCC website](#).

Children who are worried about their activity on apps or online games can [contact Childline 24 hours a day](#) online and over the phone on 0800 1111.

Thanks everyone

Sharon Wyatt