



# Newsletter

## St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

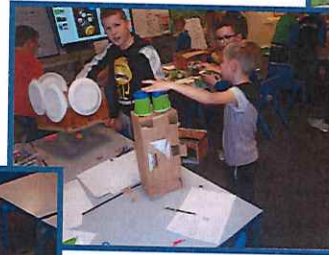
Recognising every child is precious to God,  
our vision is to provide an excellent Catholic Education

Issue 22 Friday 1st March 2019



### Design and Technology Day

The children started the half term using their design and technology skills to create games for playtimes. The children were really enthused whilst making the games and they learnt the importance of evaluating their designs throughout the process. As a result, the children produced some exciting games which their peers had a go at playing with during break times.



#### Golden Book

Kyla K	Amelia J	Jaden U	John S
Sophie G	Patryk X2	Ayomide D	Casey M
Maria	Maryam H	Harry H	Thomas H x2
Adam K	Piotr Z	Matas M	Jaku P
Kieran F	Amelia R	Zofia B	Bartosz T
Kinley D	Archie	Amelia	
Nasya D	Adomas K	Noor A	
Jayden P	Macie P	Isaac	

#### Online Safety

Please find attached to the newsletter email important information about keeping your child safe online with regards to Momo.

#### Attendance

Attendance has been amazing this week especially on Thursday when whole school attendance was 98% with no unauthorised absences. Whole school attendance for the week is 97%. Year 3 Maple won an attendance reward by having no absences this week. Well done!

#### Housepoints

1st	St Josephine	577
2nd	St Damien	509
3rd	St Teresa	465
4th	St Vincent	402

#### Stars of the Week

Ash	Xander G	Finlay-Boi J
Oak	Patrik G	Larissa N
Pine	Sean K	Emily C
Beech	Thomas M	Aleksander D
Cherry	Harvey C	Kayden J
Willow	Marwah H	Victoria W
Maple	Keavylea D	Kacper G
Hazel	Oliwier R	Piotr Z
Poplar	Jack M	Alicja W
Rowan	Oliwia F	Alan G
Hawthorn	Bronson H	Elaana M
Sycamore	Millie W	Nathan L
Silver Birch	Blake F-T	Abigail G
Horse Chestnut	Matas M	Conner H



### World Book Day

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day and as a result we will be celebrating the joy that bedtime stories bring to children.

Children are invited to bring in their favourite stories and wear pyjamas. A letter has been sent home this evening with more details.

The Book Fair is also in school until Friday 8th March and will be available at Parent's Evening on Tuesday.

Please see below for dates and times including our class assemblies.

#### Diary Dates

#### March 2019

- 5th - Class Assembly 3 Maple 2.30pm
- 5th - Parents Evening 5.00pm-7.00pm
- 6th - Yr3 trip to Jorvik Viking Centre
- 6th - Whole School Mass
- 7th - World Book Day
- 8th - Class Mass 6 Horse Chestnut
- 15th - Class Mass 3 Hazel
- 15th - St Patrick Theme Dinner Day
- 15th - Yr6 singers to Skipton Music Festival
- 20th - Yr4 trip to Bolton Abbey



### Join us for Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 6th March. 9:15am in Church.

As Lent approaches we often think about what we might give up for 40 days. Chocolate, sweets, iPads etc. Rather than giving things up, could we show the gifts of generosity, gratitude and love for each other and the environment instead? Therefore, throughout this season of Lent, the children at St. Columba's will have a go at different acts of kindness each day.

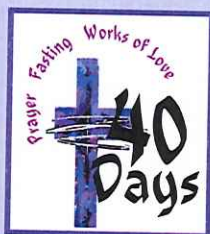
Dear God,

Thank You that You are loving and forgiving.

Help us to love people in the same way as You have loved us.

Help us do generous things for others because we love You.

Amen.



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 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 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.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/sick-videos-youtube-youtube-kids-14052136>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47359623>