

Dear Parent

We have been made aware by e-safety experts that they have significant Concerns about a new viral craze sweeping the internet called '**MOMO Challenge**'

This is yet another scaremongering challenge type situation that has previously appeared under different guises for example 'Slenderman' and 'The Blue Whale Challenge'

We have information that suggests numerous children are now being exposed to the 'MOMO Challenge' on a daily basis. We have already started to have reports trickling in via worried parents that this is starting to affect some of the children in our schools.

To make you all fully aware what is happening, we know that children are being convinced to contact a number via instagram, Facebook or WhatsApp that connects to someone running the challenge. Additionally there are now numerous copy-cat type situations where despicable people are posting '**MOMO Challenge Videos**' embedded in seemingly okay Youtube videos that are directed at children. Children are then told that they will die unless they follow through a challenge. Many of the challenges involve self-harm and suicide. Some of the sketches depicting suicide are horrific.

There is a disturbing clown-like/ Tim Burton doll-like image that is the icon that is used to denote the challenge online but aside from this there are many horrendous sketches.

We ask that you try not to panic, but to just feel forewarned and clear about this latest awful phase.

Every Parent needs to make sure that they have a **line of communication** with their child at home whereby they will be able to speak to them if they come across anything that remotely links to this situation or indeed anything that links to 'suicide advice'.

The children need to know they can raise these issues with their parents **without then having to deal with an immediate ban from electronics etc for their honesty**. We are concerned that if parents punish their children as a result of a disclosure relating to the 'MOMO Challenge' children will not talk to us anymore and we strongly urge you to think carefully about how you handle this issue should it arise.

If your child has been self-harming for no reason or talking about scary things related to death there is a strong chance that this latest issue may be involved somewhere.

We have also been made aware that some links to the challenge have been placed within the games '**ROBLOX**' and '**Minecraft**' which we know many of our children use regularly.

Working together we will keep our children safe

Kind regards

Mr Rob Litten