

Trewirgie Infants' and Nursery School

Newsletter

March 2019

Attendance

As a school we have a 'below average' attendance rate. In order to achieve excellent attendance, we ask the following:

- Please communicate with the school. If you or your child has any issues/concerns, please see your child's class teacher.
- We appreciate that not all appointments can be made outside of school hours, but we do ask that where possible children can attend appointments out of school hours as even taking 30 minutes or an hour out of school time can affect their learning. If in exceptional circumstances an appointment is taken in school time the absence will be authorised with the proof of the appointment.
- The Head teacher can no longer authorise absence for school holidays in term time. We appreciate this causes difficulties for some families and we do ask that you approach us before making any decisions. Information from the government says that a school can only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances and a 'family holiday' is not an exceptional circumstance.
- If your child is ill you must contact the school on the first day of absence and each subsequent day they are not attending. A text will be sent out if we have not heard a reason for absence, if by the end of the day we have not heard a reason for absence, it will be recorded as unauthorised.

Bag 2 School

Bags will be collected on Thursday 21st March 2019. We appreciate all donations. Bags will be weighed and the school will get paid by the total weight collected.

St Piran's Parade



Please can we show Class 2 support in the St Piran's Parade on Saturday 2nd March as they represent our school. The event will run from 10am-3pm.

21 Acts of Kindness – Celebrating World Downs Syndrome Awareness Day on 21st March.

The idea is to spread kindness, raise awareness and encourage the acceptance of individuals with Downs Syndrome. Pupils and Staff are invited to take part in writing down one act of kindness a day, bring this to school on March 21st, and you will be rewarded with a piece of cake. This will be held from March 1st – March 21st.

RLG DANCE

As a school we would like to wish the pupils taking part in the RLG dance on Thursday 7th March the very best of luck.

Friday 8th March – World Book Day




Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Donations of books that are no longer read at home would be greatly appreciated.

05/03/2019- St Piran's menu
07/03/2019- World Book Day menu
07/03/2019- RLG Dance
07/03/2019- Military meeting
08/03/2019- World Book Day
04/04/2019- Military meeting
05/04/2019- Last day of term
23/04/2019- Start of term



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Don't forget to follow us on 
www.facebook.com/trewirgieinfants

Trewirgie Infants' School - Where Everybody Matters

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 eggs) 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.

SOURCES:
https://www.nos.co.uk/news/what-is-the-momo-challenge-what-you-need-to-know-14812716
https://www.bbc.co.uk
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47119621

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.



www.nationalonlinesafety.com

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Phone - 0800 368 8061



Trewirgie Infants' School - Where Everybody Matters

