



1st March 2019

Dear Roseneath Families

The Momo Challenge

You might have seen or heard about the “Momo Challenge”, and like us, have felt concerned about it. There has been talk about videos that are spliced into Peppa Pig or Minecraft or Fortnite videos, encouraging others to complete challenges to harm themselves.

There is a lot of evidence around to suggest that the Momo challenge is actually just an urban myth and what kids are seeing are screenshots of unpleasant faces or upsetting content referencing this “Momo Challenge”. This is still very unpleasant, and creates a lot of distress.

The BBC published an article yesterday saying that it is in fact a big hoax and that schools and police have been too fast to warn parents, therefore amplifying a media-scare-story. <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-47393510>

Youtube have said that they haven't received a single report about any "momo challenge" videos on their website. But, as mentioned on the Netsafe article, because our kids are talking about it, you may like to spend some time with them talking about internet safety in general. Have a conversation with your young people about what to do if they do come across upsetting content online, and remind them that they can always come to you if something worries them that they have seen or heard. You might like to take the opportunity to review your child's social media accounts (if they have them), and the legal age requirements around these apps. You might like to check your own privacy and filter settings.

As broadcaster Andy Robertson, who creates videos online as Geek Dad, said... "A better focus is good positive advice for children, setting up technology appropriately and taking an interest in their online interactions," he said.

Here is the Netsafe article about the Momo challenge. Netsafe is a really helpful website to take a look through from time to time, as we journey through this digital revolution!

<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/momo-challenge-advisory-february-2019/>

Here at Roseneath School we won't be raising the topic directly about Momo with your children as we don't want to add to the urban myth or create extra interest in it. If we hear students talking about it we will discourage it as it is inappropriate "that's not something we talk about here".

We are already in the process of reviewing our Digital Citizenship agreements as we do every year, and ensuring our children understand their responsibilities around keeping themselves safe online. If we don't already have a signed copy of their contract on their profile we will send home another copy to update our records over the next few weeks. You might like to take the opportunity to chat through our guidelines.

We have filter/watchdog systems in place, and monitor what our children are accessing on the internet. We are able to see on our screen what children are doing in real time, at any time. Our children are not allowed to use digital devices at breaktimes.

If you have any questions about this letter please get in touch. If you ever have any concerns about what your child is doing online at school or at home, we appreciate you letting us know. Even when it is on their own accounts and devices in their own time, it helps to know these patterns and trends so that together, we can continue to be vigilant around internet safety.

Have a lovely, safe weekend
Ngā mihi nui,
Adelle Broadmore and the Roseneath team

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ROSENEATH SCHOOL