E-Safety Alert

MoMo

We've received information from Darlington local authority about the game MoMo

What is it?
The MoMo Game is said to off started on Facebook and has now spread to YouTube and WhatsApp. It involves users receiving a message from an unknown source who challenges the recipient to complete various dares and orders which are gruesome, cruel and violent in nature. The final challenge apparently demands the user to commit suicide and the MoMo Game is allegedly being linked to the suicide of a 12 year old girl in Argentina.

The controller of the game uses the image (above) of a women who is half bird and half human as their avatar. It's this image which that we've been told has led to primary aged children becoming scared and upset. The image is taken from a sculpture that was designed for a Japanese Horror Art exhibition.

The trouble with the MoMo game is like Slenderman, killer clowns and the Blue Whale game it looks like it's becoming another modern day urban tale/myth. It also makes sensational headlines in the press. There is very little evidence that people are playing it as it is being reported in the press and on social media. What appears to be happening though is children and young people are sharing images about it and stories that they think are real and it's having a negative impact upon some of them.

YouTube now has a number of MoMo themed games/videos as well that involve jump scares and disturbing images that may spread it further and lead to sleepless nights for those scared by it. Another school, not Springfield, has reported to us that a parent and child were watching Peppa Pig on YouTube Kids and unknown to them the video had been edited to feature a jump scare of the MoMo image suddenly pop up on the screen. The child was very upset, by all accounts.

What can we do about it?
Awareness is key so we can support children and young people who come across it and are upset or disturbed by it. Pointing out it is not real and encouraging parents and carers especially those of primary aged children to have appropriate controls and checks in place to prevent access to such material. Teachers will be speaking to the children in their classes to ensure they know what to do if they come across something that they don't like on the Internet. Do check what your children is watching and accessing on their devices at home.

If you need support in putting in place controls and checks in place please contact us in school either by telephone or by email.

Our e-safety co-ordinator is Mr Algie. His email address is palgie@educationvillage.org.uk