

SHILLINGTON LOWER NEWSLETTER

www.shillingtonlower.co.uk



Our Value of the Month is: Simplicity

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2019

Parents, grandparents and children reading together in class

Thank you to all the adults who came in to read to and with your children on Thursday morning. It was a very successful morning and great to see so many of you! We will definitely repeat this soon.



Shillington Superstars

Rainbows

Hayden
Joshua

Unicorns

Ben
Toby B

Dragons

Lily
Amy

Centaurs

Jett

Phoenix

Maisie
Dylan
Rosanna

Exciting Writing

Rainbows

Joe
Henry C

Unicorns

Limani
Ben S
Lottie

Dragons

Drew

Centaurs

William
Leyla

Phoenix

Harry T

Having had a blank playground for over a year now, we have finally had our playground re-painted. It was a very exciting day, with the children all keen to watch it being done. Our new markings include a fitness trail, snakes and ladders game and 4-way hopscotch which the children have been very excited about.



Online Safety News

Things Parents need to know about Fortnite



Last week Stondon Lower held internet safety sessions which were led by Sally from Bedfordshire Police and during the class sessions there were lots of questions about the game 'Fortnite.' As this is such a popular game amongst children of all ages we would like to share research from Stondon regarding their findings:

- The game is rated at a PEGI 12+, it is not recommended for children under 12 due to the violent nature of the game.
- Although the game may seem harmless, players can talk and type whatever they want to each other. Text can not be turned off and there are no filters for voice or text. There is nothing from stopping an adult from saying inappropriate comments to a child or from players using bad language.
 - There are in-app purchases which can turn this free game in to an expensive habit.
 - Short matches and accessible game play make it addictive.
- There are parental controls to limit the length of gaming sessions, Fortnite matches can last up to 20 minutes

Anyone looking for online safety advice can contact the O2 NSPCC online safety helpline on 0808 800 50002 or pop in to an O2 store

MOMO

We have become increasingly aware of highly inappropriate videos circulating online which are being viewed by children. These video clips are appearing on many social media sites and You Tube (including Kids You Tube.)

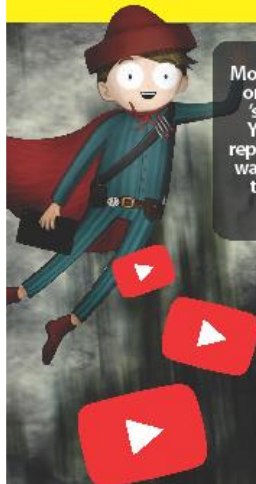
One of the videos starts innocently, for example the start of a Peppa Pig episode, but quickly turns in to an altered version with violence and offensive language. Another clip is going by the name of 'MoMo' which shows a warped white mask which is promoting children to do dangerous tasks without telling their Parents.

We will be speaking to the children in school in an age appropriate way to remind them that if they see anything online that upsets them then they need to show a grown up straight away. We encourage you to be vigilant if your child is using any device or watching clips.

Please see on the next page a Parents guide which has been published by National Online Safety.

Online Safety News

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 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 to 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-14052106>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47359623>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Phone - 0800 368 8061

Pixie News

We started this term concentrating on writing our names. We had lots of practise writing our names in different textures such as hair gel, sand, shaving foam, glitter and rice. We have started our topic 'Growing' and this week we have been looking at babies. The children enjoyed sharing photos of themselves as babies and have been busy comparing how they have changed. Our baby clinic role play has proven very popular. Our Maths focus has been shape and we have been shape detectives looking for shapes in our school environment.

Unicorns News

This week in Unicorn class the children have been looking at the story Whatever Next! They have completed some brilliant retellings of the story. On Tuesday the children had a fantastic session of Judo where they really got stuck in and worked well together. In Maths we have been learning lots about subtraction and completing big jumps on the number line to help. Don't forget to connect to seesaw! :)

Centaurs News

For the last 2 weeks Centaurs have been delving into the history of the Titanic. We have been completely immersed in researching what happened on its fateful journey and exploring what it might have been like to have been on-board the ship in all of its glory and then experience the tragedy that occurred. Both Mrs Young and I are extremely proud of how all of the children have approached this topic and dealt with the information recalled with sensitivity and maturity. Thank you Centaurs.

In keeping with the theme of the Titanic, in Geography we have plotted a map to show where we think the Titanic is laid and have been very creative in making clay models of the Titanic, her sister ship the Olympic and some fantastic icebergs!

Rainbows News

We have started our "Growing" topic for this half term. This week, we read a story called "The Tiny Seed" which we enjoyed. We planted cress and observed it over each day. It's almost ready so we are going to eat in sandwiches next week! We also all planted our own bean seed and decorated our pots. We can't wait to watch what happens. This week we have been focusing on 3D shapes and learning the names too.

Dragons News

We had a huge surprise waiting for us after Half Term, our classroom was covered in footprints! We worked out that the footprints were from endangered animals, however there was one mystery print which turned out to be a Dodo. We used the ipads to research Dodos and wrote a fact file using noun phrases. In maths we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We also made symmetrical patterns using Numicon.

Phoenix News

This week in Phoenix Class the children have begun researching different animals in preparation for them writing their own non-fiction text, which we will hopefully be turning into a David Attenborough style documentary! In Maths we have been learning about area, which the children have enjoyed. Next week we will be moving on to fractions!

Thank you to Mrs Whiteley for bringing in the mummified fox to show year 4. This linked in perfectly with our Ancient Egypt topic during which we have been mummifying tomatoes to find out what happens to them over the next few weeks

Diary Dates

7th March World Book Day—wear pj's or dress as a book character
22nd—24th May Year 4 Residential trip to Grafham Water

Term Dates

2018 - 19

Spring Term 2019

Thursday 3rd January 2019 - Friday 5th April 2019

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 - Friday 19th July 2019

(Half Term 27th - 31st May)

(School Closed Monday 6th May 2019)

We have two chocolate bunnies to name and WIN
this year !



Would you like to be the lucky ones
who guess the chosen names for our
Easter Bunnies?

Raising funds for our school garden.

Coming soon!



Design an Easter Bonnet/Hat Competition.

Please bring entries to
school on Thursday 4th
April



Class prize winners!

£2 entry



Term Dates 2019—2020

These are the dates agreed with our cluster of schools for 2019—2020

Autumn Term 2019

Wednesday 4th September 2019—Friday 20th December 2019

(Half term: 21st—25th October 2019)

(Inset days: Monday 2nd and 3rd September and Monday 28th October)

Spring Term 2020

Tuesday 7th January 2020 - Friday 3rd April 2020

(Half term: 17th-21st February)

(Inset day: Monday 6th January)

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April 2020 - Friday 17th July 2020

(Half term: 25th-29th May)

For the Attention of Pixie Parents;

Please note the Governors, after reviewing the pre-school hourly rates have decided that after Easter hourly charges will be;

- 3/4yrs olds increasing to £4.25 per hour
- 2 yr olds remain at £5.50 per hour

This week some children from years 3 and 4 visited Robert Bloomfield to take part in a sports multiskills festival, which this time included curling activities. The children all had a good time and were beautifully behaved.

Well done to Josh who won an award for his determination during the event.



Pixie Preschool Class

FOR LITTLE LEARNERS WITH BIG IDEAS!

OPEN MORNING

Saturday 9th March 2019
10am-11am

Visit our highly successful Pre-School provision

Come and meet staff for an informal chat

Lots of activities to keep the children busy
Face painting available



For more information
please contact us at
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