

**Wow!** This week our Musical Theatre children have performed Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' at the Halifax Playhouse. Simply put...this performance was absolutely outstanding! I am incredibly proud of how far our budding actors have come—they have all grown in confidence and worked as a team to polish the production to the highest level! Over the past 2 days, the children have performed to family and friends, classmates and pupils from Ferney Lee and Christ Church schools. Comments from the audience certainly echo my own:

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for today. Our staff and pupils said that the Macbeth performance was absolutely amazing; a great hook for them this half term. Much appreciated!"

A special mention to Christabel for once again working her magic and inspiring our young performers. She is an incredible performer and teacher—we are lucky to have her expertise at All Saints'! Well done to all of the cast for being so amazing—they certainly earned today's alfresco dining outside the venue! Living the dream...



# Parents' Consultations

The dates for the Spring term's parents' consultations have been agreed:

Wednesday 10th April (2-5pm) or

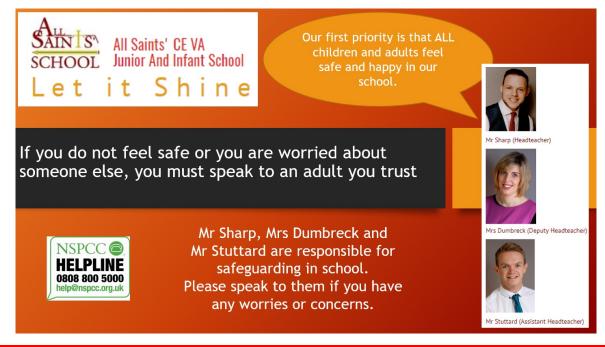
Thursday 11th April (4-7pm)



You'll be able to access the online booking system from Friday.

Thank you.

# **Safeguarding**



#### Keeping Our Children Safe

If you have any concerns or worries about the safety or well-being of a child, do not hesitate to contact Mr Sharp, Mrs Dumbreck or Mr Stuttard on 01422 367140 or email:

head@allsaints.calderdale.sch.uk

# **PTA Dates!**

Next meeting: Tuesday 26th March, 6pm

Mother's Day Shop: Friday 29th March

Easter Bake Sale event: Monday 15th April (tbc)

Spring Fling Discol: Friday 17th May

Summer Fayre: Friday 5th July (tbc with Copley Cricket Club following Sports Day)

# **Church Garden Competition**

Steve and Andrea Lees have launched a competition for the children to partake in to support the Welcome Garden Project. They are looking for a LOGO for the project. The logo should include a simple flower design. The deadline for entries is: Friday 1st March 2019. First place prize =  $\pm 20!$ 

You've got to be in it to win it!

The Church also invites you all to attend their Spring Fayre on Friday 22nd March (further details to follow).

It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created to 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

# 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 mattype through the videos 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 deaply distressing to 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.



#### FELL 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.

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### **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 succomb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to 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 everthing 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.



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**Top** Tips for Parents