



# New York Newsletter

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019



## Did you know?

March.

March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war. March is the third month of the year in our modern day Gregorian calendar. It was originally the first month of the year in the Roman calendar and named Martius.

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Dear Parents and Carers,

**This term... Our Value is Fortitude...**

### Maths:

Improving mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding is a huge initiative, not just in our schools, but across the county and Nationally. Across both Frithville and New York we have identified the areas of need and have tackled the problem from several directions.

- Children have greater exposure to maths, through explicit maths teaching, cross-curriculum learning and curriculum design.
- At both schools, class 2 have been focused into smaller groups, with Mrs Iveson and myself taking the lead at New York and Mrs Tempest and Mrs Roberts at Frithville.
- Support from the PTFA, with the organisation of board games nights... maths can be fun.
- Your support... Helping your children with their learning at home.
- Improving transition between primary and secondary schools with pupil progress, teaching and communication between schools.

We have parents' afternoon and the end of this term, if you have any questions about your children's learning, or what we are trying to do, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you.

### Class 1:

This term we are looking at fairy tales. We are reading Jack and the beanstalk this week and Little Red Riding Hood for the next two weeks. We are learning about Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong in History. In Science we are continuing to learn about humans and animals and are very excited to learn more on our visit to Natureland. This term we are creating natural sculptures and in RE we are studying Christianity.

### Class 2:

We began our work this half term with a Polar theme (despite the unusually warm temperatures we've been enjoying!) as we've been very fortunate to be selected to take part in the Polar Explorer Programme. This theme is linking our work in a variety of subject areas, particularly geography, science and English. English topics will include writing stories and factual reports. Our maths work will focus on fractions, percentages and decimals, moving on to shape in a few weeks' time. Science will include a variety of topics linked to our polar work, particularly light, materials and animals and we will be focussing particularly on these during British Science week (11th - 15th March). Details of our geography work can be found on the Knowledge Organiser that has been sent home.

### Stranger Danger:

A huge thank you to all the parents who informed staff of the stranger in the red car outside school yesterday. There is no hiding place at New York and your vigilance yesterday proved that to be correct. The police have been informed and will respond immediately to any further sightings. Thank you!

### Headteacher Awards:

<b>Riley Edwards</b>	Confidence (singing to the rest of the class)
<b>Harley Denham</b>	Polar bear writing
<b>Josh Sidwells</b>	Independent reading work
<b>Lacey Davies</b>	Independent reading work
<b>Aeryn Martin</b>	Independent reading work
<b>Charlie Morgan</b>	Independent reading work
<b>Paris Jackson</b>	Independent reading work
<b>Olivia Leggett</b>	Working independently
<b>Nathan Foster</b>	Reaching above the stars
<b>Flick Foster</b>	Concentration on her work
<b>Luke Morley</b>	Concentration when writing
<b>Sunny Birks</b>	Polar bear writing

### House Point Winners:

**The Red Rubies!**

### Stars of the Week:

**Class 1: Nathan Foster**

**Class 2: Paris Jackson**

### Shining Stars:

<b>Freyja Newman</b>	Progress in letter formation
<b>Finlay Webb</b>	Progress in phonics
<b>Harriet Dixon</b>	Working more independently
<b>Sam Nelson</b>	Improved concentration
<b>Paris Jackson</b>	Progress in maths
<b>Leon Dixon</b>	Beautifully presented work

### Dates for your diary:

<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Tractors in Schools
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	PTFA meeting
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day – dress up!
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Non-uniform day – Chocolate donations
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Boat building afternoon (see letter)
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Red Nose Day – donations to charity
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Visit to Natureland – whole school
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Chocolate Bingo @ NYPS - PTFA
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Parents' Afternoon</b>

Please note there will be **no assembly on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you.**

## This year's World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March.

The theme for the event is 'Share a Story' so we are inviting children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas with their favourite bedtime story to share. Alternatively, children could dress as a character from a story.

Please ensure that children have suitable outdoor shoes (eg: school shoes or trainers, not just slippers) and that any books they bring have their name written inside the front cover.

Our School Council is organising a variety of activities throughout the day and every child will receive a Book Day voucher, which can be redeemed for one of the specially written Book Day books, or for £1 against any other book purchased. These are available at most book shops.

### Cross-Country:

Both schools competed in the Area Cross-country Tournament yesterday, all children showing great fortitude in completing the course. Well done All of you!



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

### Non-Uniform Day – choc donations:

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March we will be having a non-uniform day. If you come in your own clothes, please bring a donation of chocolate for the PTFA Chocolate Bingo event on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### Natureland:

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, the whole school will be going on a field trip to Natureland, Skegness. Please see the accompanying letter for details.

### PTFA:

There's lots going on... Please have a look at the agenda attached for the next PTFA meeting.

### School Transport:

If your child is starting secondary school in September 2019 they may be eligible for school transport. If you think your child is eligible please apply for transport immediately once you have your offer of a school place. Applications can be made online at the website below or a paper application form can be requested from the Customer Service Centre on 01522 782020. For more information about the home to school transport policy and online applications please go to...

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport)

Queries can be emailed to [schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

### E-safety:

Following on from my Tweet on Wednesday, more information has been made available to us. Momo is essentially a hoax, but it is so horrific it's sensationalised by the media and parents are understandably spreading cautionary advice, which unfortunately does nothing more than fuel the hoax further so that it goes round and round in a never-ending spiral, akin to other so-called challenges such as blue whale. Naturally, some children are going to be frightened by what they see, yet this hoax is spreading so far and wide due to the sensationalism that more and more children are seeing it. Please be vigilant with regard to what your children have access to online, some of our children have already mentioned that they are aware of this issue.

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 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.

## 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 reassure 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.
- 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's natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is real. 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.

SOURCE:  
https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/what-is-momo-the-suicide-killer-game-14052196  
https://www.bbc.com/news/health-47529623

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @nationalonsafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Phone - 0800 368 8061