

ALDER COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Achievement through Commitment

Headteacher: Mr P Mandelstam

11 May 2026

Dear Parents,

VIRAL TREND – SAFEGUARDING ALERT

We are writing to make you aware of an important safeguarding concern involving a dangerous viral trend currently circulating on platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and YouTube.

A recent safeguarding alert has highlighted that children and young people are copying online videos encouraging them to microwave squishy silicone toys (including NEEDOH Toys, Squishes, Nice Cubes and Jelly Cubes). These videos falsely claim that heating the toys makes them softer. In reality, microwaving them causes the inside to reach boiling temperatures while the outside remains cool. When squeezed, the toys can burst and spray boiling gel, leading to serious burns to the hands, face and eyes. There have already been multiple injuries in the UK and internationally, including cases requiring hospital treatment. Many children may not realise the danger, especially as the toys appear harmless and the online content is presented as a fun “life hack”.

Key risks include:

- Second and third-degree burns
- Blistering and skin damage
- Potential permanent scarring
- Risk of eye injury or vision loss

We encourage all parents and carers to speak calmly and openly with their children about this trend. If your child owns one of these toys, it may help to use it as a starting point for conversation. Manufacturers recommend kneading the toy by hand if it feels too firm—never heating it.

If you are concerned your child may have seen this content, consider looking through their viewing history together.

You can read the full safeguarding alert here:

<https://inege.com/2026/05/07/safeguarding-alert-viral-trend-causing-burns/>

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our children safe.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Randall

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Assistant Headteacher

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