Dudley Prevention Hub
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Our Reference:

Date:

Dear parents and carers,

This is a message from West Midlands Police about Halloween and Bonfire Night.

We want everyone to have an enjoyable Halloween and Bonfire Night this October half term. This letter is to provide you with useful advice to keep you, your child, and your community safe.

On the run up to half term, your child might get a visit from one of our local officers visiting their school to deliver important messages about how to stay safe around fireworks and keep themselves safe in the darker nights.

To help start that conversation with your child about personal safety, stranger danger, and antisocial behaviour School Officer PC Smith has created a short video for you to watch with your child. Watch here: https://youtu.be/hyIRME6G9hU

Trick-or-treating safety tips:

- Accompany young children while trick-or-treating and talk to your child about staying with their friends. Tell them never to enter a property they do not know.
- Plan a safe route in familiar neighbourhoods, use pelican and zebra crossings, and stick to well-lit streets.
- Add reflective tape to costumes and carry flashlights or glow sticks.
- Make sure phones are charged, have location apps turned on, and keep it out of sight when they are not using it.
- Keep a light on in your home to help welcome your children home and prevent burglars.
- We ask that children do not visit homes that display a 'no trick-or-treating' sign as this time of year can be unsettling for many.

It is always best to check any sweets, gifts, or toys children have been given while trick-or-treating.

Fireworks and Bonfire Safety Tips:

- Attend a public firework display rather than handling fireworks at home. Never allow children to handle fireworks or sparklers without supervision.
- Talk to your children about the danger of pointing fireworks at people or buildings. Police can prosecute for dangerous use of fireworks.
- Wear high-vis jackets, glow sticks, or give a torch to your children.

- Before visiting a bonfire or firework display talk to your child about a safe meeting place or a time to regroup after the event.
- Never create a bonfire, or start a fire, in a public space, against a building, or next to vehicles. Call the fire service on 999 if you see any fires in public spaces or in public bins.

Always ask: What are your child's plans? How are they going to enjoy fireworks and bonfire night safely?

Throughout half term, local officers will be patrolling your town centres, visiting community hubs and policing large events. Stop by and say 'hello' if you see us out and about.

In an emergency, you can report misuse of fireworks or dangerous behaviour to us on 999. To report non-life-threatening incidents or antisocial behaviour please contact us online by searching 'WMP report' or calling us on 101.

You can report 100% anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.

Thank you,

PC 0103 Harrison and PC 8363 Purser
Early Help, Dudley