

Haileybury Turnford

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Dear Parent/Carer

Stay safe at Halloween

As we approach two important events of the year; Halloween and Bonfire Night, we would like to highlight the advice below found on the Hertfordshire Police Information and Services website:

During Halloween and Bonfire Night, officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team will be carrying out extra patrols in your area to keep you safe.

Halloween can be a great and fun time, but for some people, it's not an enjoyable day and they may get scared or frightened by other's actions.

Hertfordshire Police want to remind everyone that it is important to remember to be aware of their behaviour and recommend the following simple steps to remain safe. Please can we ask you discuss the following recommended advice with your child:

Remember:

- Police don't want to spoil people's fun – just make sure everyone stays safe and has an enjoyable time.
- Never go trick or treating, or collecting 'pennies for the guy', alone – always take an adult with you.
- Don't knock on the doors of strangers, for your own safety always visit people you know.
- Keep your 'tricks' safe – any deliberate behaviour that results in damage to property or hurts someone is a crime.
- When you are out and about at night you should wear bright clothes and remember your road safety advice.

Stay safe at Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night can be spectacular but it is important to remember not everyone enjoys the evening or hearing fireworks being set off.

Officers will be carrying out extra patrols in your area to keep you safe but there are number of steps you can take to ensure a great Bonfire Night. Hertfordshire Police have given the following advice for anyone who is taking part in celebrating Bonfire Night, please can we ask you to read the following advice and ensure your child is acting safely during Bonfire Night:

Remember:

- An organised display is the safest way to enjoy fireworks.
- Fireworks are noisy (which can upset very young or elderly people as well as pets) they can cause damage and they can cause serious injuries if not used properly.



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- **You have to be 16** or over to buy 'novelty' fireworks, such as sparklers, caps and 'serpents', **and 18 or over** to buy all other types of fireworks.
- **It is an offence to let fireworks off between 11pm and 7am** except on 5th November, Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year when the curfew is 1am. It is also an offence to set off fireworks in a public place.
- Please buy fireworks from an outlet signed up to Hertfordshire Trading Standard's Good Guys scheme - these places have agreed to store and sell their fireworks responsibly.
- Please think of potential dangers before setting off Chinese Lanterns. There is a risk, particularly in rural areas, of them landing still alight near hay barns and there is also a danger of livestock ingesting pieces of wire from discarded lanterns.

What is a firework?

"Any device intended for use as a form of entertainment which contains, or otherwise incorporates, explosive and/or pyrotechnic composition, which burns and/or explodes to produce a visual and/or audible effect."

The Fireworks (Safety) Regulations 1997.

There are 4 categories of firework:

- These are suitable for use inside domestic buildings, and must be marked 'indoor'.
- These are for outdoor use in gardens and paddocks etc. and require a minimum spectator distance of 5 metres, and must be marked 'outdoor'.
- These are display fireworks for use in large outdoor spaces, e.g. recreation grounds, large fields, etc., and require spectator distances of a minimum of 25 metres, and must be marked 'display'.
- These are for specialist use and may only be used by a professionally trained and qualified person, generally at an organised public fireworks display, and therefore the general public are prohibited from possession such fireworks.

What are the rules regarding fireworks?

'The Use of Fireworks at Night' - Regulation 7, of the 2004 Regulations states that adult fireworks must:

- Not be used during the night, between 2300 hours and 0700 hours the following day, except during a permitted fireworks night, i.e. New Year, Chinese New Year or Diwali.

What are the age limits on fireworks?

Adult fireworks:

Can only be bought by persons aged 18-years or over and may not be possessed by persons aged less than 18 years in a public place, with certain exemptions. Persons less than 18 years who possess a firework in a public place are contravening Section 11 of the Fireworks Act 2003 and Regulation 4 of the Fireworks Regulations 2004, which can result in six months' imprisonment and/or a fine.



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Anyone aged 16 or over may possess any of the following:

Caps, cracker snaps (the bit in a cracker that goes bang when the cracker is pulled apart), novelty matches, party poppers, serpents, throw downs and sparklers.

Throwing a firework

Any person who throws a firework into a public place will be contravening Section 80 of the Explosives Act, which can result in six months' imprisonment and/or fine.

Possessing a Category 4 firework

Any person who possesses a category 4 firework will be contravening Section 11 of the Fireworks Act 2003 and Regulation 5 of the Fireworks Regulations 2004, which can also result in six months' imprisonment and/or a fine.

Further information and advice about how you and your family can keep safe and enjoy Halloween and Bonfire Night can be found here: <https://www.herts.police.uk/Information-and-services/Advice/Halloween-and-Bonfire-Night/Stay-safe-at-Bonfire-Night>

If you require any further details, please do not hesitate to contact me at goodesm@haileyburyturnford.com

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Goodes
Vice Principal

