



Welcome!

Autumn 2023

To our Autumn edition of the Schools Stay Safe Newsletter.
Read on for advice on ways to stay safe for you and your family.

Road Safety around schools

Most children will have to cross the road on their way back home from school at some point. They should know how to cross a street safely from an early age.

1. Always look both ways, more than once.
2. Be seen!
3. Always use pavements where possible.
4. Teach your children how to use crossings safely.
Always use them when they are available.
5. Do not cross the road looking at mobile devices.
Put them away.
6. Do not cross between parked cars or on a bend.
7. Parents be aware not to park on zig zag lines outside schools and keep your speed at a minimum.



Talk to your children about traffic rules and road safety. No matter their age or understanding, make sure they are clear and stay safe.



Lithium Batteries

Lithium batteries are generally safe and unlikely to fail. However, they can cause fires, serious injuries, and even death if they are defective, damaged, improperly used or stored.

They are found in everyday items such as mobile phones and laptops, and in e-bikes and e-scooters.

- Regularly check the condition of the battery.
- Only use the charger that was supplied with it. If you replace it, go back to the manufacturer.
- Disconnect the battery and unplug the charger once it reaches 100%.
- Do not charge where it may prevent you escaping in the event of a fire.
- Do not charge near high temperatures or cover them up whilst charging.
- Ensure you have early warning systems in place – **do you have working smoke detectors?**





Winter Water Safety for all

You may not associate water with winter, but it still poses the same dangers. Make sure you and your loved ones are water aware!

- Plan your route if you're going out and about near waterways in winter!
- Look out for the signs and warnings.
- Stay off the ice and frozen waters as they will not be able to hold a person's weight!
- Keep away from the edge, and be aware that snow and leaves may obscure the banks.
- Supervise children around ice and waterways
- Never go in after anybody who has fallen in. Call 999 and try to stay calm.





Halloween

Halloween should be a fun time for children, and with just a few simple habits you can keep it that way!

- Check that all Halloween and fancy-dress costumes you buy carry a CE or UKCA mark on the label.
- Be aware that children wearing loose fitting costumes can trip over.
- Candles glowing inside of pumpkins can cause fires.
- Sharp props – think sticks or plastic swords – can cause eye injuries.
- Pumpkin carving can cause finger and hand injuries.
- Children can become ill when they eat sweets containing an ingredient they are allergic to.





Are you aware of Staywise?

Staywise is an interactive website packed full of fun activities from the UK's leading emergency services and safety-focused organisations, making it easy for you to find trusted activities that provide learning opportunities to help keep you safe.

There is lots to do on there for children and they are learning as they play!



Have you tested your smoke detector lately?

Do you have a night-time routine?

Would you know how to escape in the unlikely event of a fire?

We encourage you to book yourself a free Home Fire Safety Visit today. The local station numbers are to the right of this newsletter.

Don't forget, the visit is **FREE!**

If you need any further information or advice on any of these topics, please feel free to call our friendly staff at your local station:

- **Hemel Hempstead Fire Station**
01442 867132
HemelHempstead.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk
- **St Albans Fire Station**
01992 507650
StAlbans.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue
Community Safety



www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fire