NOVEMBER SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Dark nights • road safety • bonfire and firework safety • safe travel

As the evenings become darker and children spend more time travelling to and from school in low light, November is a good time to revisit practical safety routines. This month's focus is on being visible near roads, staying safe around bonfires and fireworks, and making sure children know what to do if plans change on the way home.

BE SEEN, BE SAFE

- Encourage children to wear or carry something bright or reflective when walking, scooting or cycling in darker conditions.
- Remind children to stop, look and listen before crossing and to use safe crossing points where possible.
- Keep phones and headphones away when crossing roads so children can see and hear traffic clearly.
- If your child travels independently, agree the route, expected arrival time and what they should do if plans change.
- Drivers: take extra care around school entrances, parked cars and children crossing between vehicles.

Small routines make a big difference: visibility, attention and predictable travel arrangements all reduce risk.

BONFIRE & FIREWORK SAFETY

- Children should always be closely supervised around bonfires and fireworks.
- Keep a safe distance from bonfires and firework displays and follow the instructions of responsible adults or event organisers.
- Sparklers can cause serious burns: they should only be used with close adult supervision and handled carefully.
- Never return to a lit firework and never pick up discarded fireworks.
- Keep pets, younger children and loose clothing away from flames and fireworks.

If attending an organised event, agree a meeting point in case family members become separated.

THE 5-MINUTE FAMILY DARK-NIGHTS CHECK

1. Route	2. Visibility	3. Contact	4. Boundaries
Do we know the safest route to and from school or clubs?	Can drivers and cyclists see us easily in low light?	Does my child know who to contact if plans change or they feel unsafe?	Have we agreed where my child can go, who with, and when they should be home?

SAFE COLLECTION & AFTER-SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

Please make sure school has up-to-date collection information and that your child knows what to do if an expected adult is late or plans change. Children should not leave with someone unexpected unless the agreed school procedures have been followed. If your child is old enough to travel independently, make sure expectations are clear and reviewed as the evenings get darker.

THIS MONTH'S FAMILY CONVERSATION

Ask: “If it was dark and something changed on your journey home — for example your lift did not arrive, you felt uncomfortable, or you became separated from friends — what would you do?” Agree together who your child would contact and where they could go for help.

IF YOUR CHILD FEELS UNSAFE

Remind children to move towards a safe, public place and seek help from a trusted adult. They should contact home where possible and avoid taking shortcuts through isolated areas. If there is an immediate danger, contact the emergency services.

WORKING TOGETHER

Please let school know about any local safety concerns that may affect pupils, such as a dangerous crossing point, a recurring issue near school or a concern linked to travel arrangements. Contextual safeguarding depends on school and families sharing information early.

COMING IN DECEMBER

New devices, online shopping, scams, in-app purchases and keeping children safe during the Christmas holidays.

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