



# Welcome!

# Autumn 2024

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

## Keep you and your home warm this winter.

There are low-cost ways to heat your home without compromising on your safety.

1. Close your blinds and curtains at night when its dark.
2. Find ways to block draughts.
3. Put secondary glazing film on your windows.
4. Use heated throws or blankets.
5. Get your boiler serviced regularly so its runs efficiently.
6. Make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector.
7. Heat the person not the room!
8. Turn down thermostats in rooms you rarely use.





## Staying safe with **fireworks** this Autumn

If you decide to use fireworks at home, ensure they are used safely and responsibly.

In the wrong hands fireworks can cause life changing injuries if they are not used properly.

- Keep candles, sparklers, and naked flames in lanterns away from fancy dress costumes.
- Some trick or treat sweets and make-up can contain traces of allergens & irritants (e.g. nuts, additives, chemicals)
- Read instructions and warnings on fireworks – light fireworks at arm’s length to avoid serious injury and severe burns.
- Only buy fireworks from licensed businesses that sell fireworks with a CE mark.
- Keep boxes of fireworks well away from areas where fireworks are being lit.
- Fireworks should not be sold to children under 18.





## Fire Safety in the home

### - did you know?

- Cooking appliances are the main cause of fires in the home.
- Around five accidental dwelling fires a day are started by smoking.
- Faulty electrical appliances cause over 3,500 fires in the home each year.
- Three accidental dwelling fires a day are caused by candles.
- Working smoke alarms correctly positioned in your home can save your life.
- You need to replace smoke alarms every 10 years.



## Vaping and under 18-year-olds

- It is illegal to sell vapes containing nicotine to children under 18, or for adults to buy them on their behalf.
- Their developing lungs and brains mean they are more sensitive to its effects.
- Some cheap, illegal vapes may contain heavy metals and dangerous chemicals, and even illegal drugs.
- Lithium-ion batteries in vaping devices can overheat and explode, causing fires.
- If you find a retailer selling either nicotine vapes or tobacco products to under-18s, you can report them via the Citizens Advice online portal





## 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's lots to do on there for children and they are learning as they play!



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](mailto:HemelHempstead.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
- **St Albans Fire Station**  
01992 507650  
[StAlbans.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:StAlbans.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

## 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!**

-  Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
-  Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Community Safety
-  [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fire](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fire)