

Bonfire night safety

Bonfire night can be one of the most exciting times of the year for our students and their families. It is time to enjoy however important we remember to keep safe.

Bonfire night accidents are common.

- In a recent year 990 injuries were caused by fireworks during October and November.
- 494 of those injured were children.
- 121 of those injuries were at public displays.
- 475 occurred at family events or private parties.

If your family or your children are planning on attending an event or staying at home, please remember there are do and don'ts to keep in mind.

Do

- Keep a safe distance from both the fire and fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Light one sparkler at a time and do so at arm's length.
- Only use sparklers if supervised by an adult.
- Make sure an adult checks the bonfire for hiding pets or wild animals before it is lit.
- Keep a bucket of water ready for dead sparklers or an emergency.
- Keep pets indoors.

Don't

- Go near a firework after it has been lit – even if it hasn't gone off it could still explode.
- Don't put fireworks in your pocket and throw them.
- Use sparklers without gloves.
- Give sparklers to younger children if they are under 5.
- Keep the bonfire away from things such as trees and buildings.
- Light fireworks after 11pm as this is illegal.

Many of our students are of an age where they may be planning on meeting friends or attending an event unsupervised. Please ensure they are aware they will be breaking the law if they use fireworks in the following ways:

- Setting fireworks off or throwing them in a street or public place.
- Carrying fireworks in public if you are under 18.
- Letting fireworks off in the period between 11pm and 7am.
- Tampering with or modifying fireworks.

Did you know?

- Fireworks can travel at speeds of 150mph, the cruising speed of some biplanes.
- It is illegal to sell fireworks to anyone under the age of 18.
- If three sparklers burn together, they will do so at the same heat as a blowtorch used for welding metal.
- Until 1959 it was illegal not to celebrate bonfire night in the UK.
- Throwing a firework is a criminal offence and you can be fined up to £5000 for doing so.

