

Halloween Half-Term Safety

Trick-or-Treating Safety Tips for Parents and children

Halloween can be an exciting time of year for children, dressing up and going out after dark. Whilst Halloween is supposed to be spooky there are some horrors that families will want to avoid.

So, here are some tips for a safe Halloween that you can remember for all the right reasons.



- Go with friends or family - never go alone.
- Stay where you know and visit decorated, well-lit houses.
- Respect 'No Trick-or-Treat' signs.
- Keep to pavements and use crossings to stay visible.
- Take a torch or glow stick so drivers can see you.
- Stay safe near roads.
- Masks can make it harder for children to see or hear traffic. So, save the special masks for indoors and use face paint for trick or treating.
- Encourage children to put mobile phones away when they are out trick or treating and crossing roads. Instead of using the phone as a light, carry a torch.
- Children under 12 are best accompanied by an adult. Agreeing a pre-planned route for children over 12 and having a way of contacting a trusted adult if they need to offers freedom with less risk.

Fancy Dress Costumes

- Remember Halloween costumes are highly flammable.
- Many fancy dress costumes are not manufactured to the same safety standards as normal clothing, meaning they can ignite almost instantly and burn far faster.
- It is crucial to ensure children wearing Halloween costumes are kept well away from naked flames and other heat sources at all times.
- Try to buy costumes from a reputable store or website.
- It may mean spending a bit more but buying from a reputable store or website will be safer. Cheap costumes may not meet UK safety standards.

- Check costume labels for a UKCA or CE mark.
- These labels don't mean a costume won't catch fire. But it has been tested for fire safety so it should burn more slowly.
- Also, The British Retail Consortium has introduced stricter fire safety tests for children's dressing-up costumes. Look for a label that says: 'This garment has undergone additional safety testing for flammability.'
- Encourage children to layer up.
- If children wear clothes under their dressing-up costumes, there is a layer of protection between the costume and their skin. This can help protect their skin if their costume catches fire.
- Ahead of Halloween, make sure children know what to do if their clothes catch fire. The instinct is to run. So, encourage them to practice stopping, dropping to the ground, covering their face with their hands, and rolling over a few times to put out the flames.
- Keep candles well out of the path of trick or treaters.
- Candles and lit pumpkins create a fantastic spooky atmosphere but can be dangerous. Keep them well out of the path of trick or treaters and away from any Halloween decorations that might catch light.
- Remember not to put candles on a surface that may burn. And, in all the excitement, don't forget to blow them out when you're done.
- Consider switching to battery-powered candles.
- You may want to switch to LED / flameless battery-powered candles to reduce the fire risk. But be sure the battery compartment is secure. Many LED lights, and the remote controls for them, contain button batteries which can badly hurt or kill a small child if they swallow one and it gets stuck.
- Be visible. Visibility is important all year round. However, after the clocks go back, it gets dark much earlier. By Halloween, it will be dusk by 5 o'clock, just when children are out trick or treating.
- Reflective tape can make a fun addition to Halloween costumes and make children more visible to drivers at twilight, as it is picked up in car headlights.
- Fluorescent glow sticks and glow jewellery can make good costume accessories and can also help make children more visible to drivers.
- If you're going out earlier with little ones, then bright or fluorescent clothing is better for daytime visibility.

Online Spooks – Staying Safe on the Internet

- Think before you post costume pictures – keep info private.
- Don't share your location online.
- Be kind! Block and tell an adult if someone is mean.
- Never click on weird links or spooky offers – they might be scams!

Treats & Tricks - Food and Drink Safety

- Only eat sweets from people you know and trust.
- Check wrappers - don't eat anything unsealed or homemade unless family/friends gave it.
- Don't accept drinks or snacks from strangers.
- Lollipops, hard sweets and mini eggs in particular can pose a serious choking risk. Plus, remember it's best to avoid eating while walking or running, so you may want to save up all the treats to enjoy back at home.

Carve carefully

Carving pumpkins has become a great Halloween tradition. If your child isn't old enough to handle a sharp knife safely there are plenty of 'no-carve pumpkin' ideas all over the internet. Just do a quick search on Pinterest. You will be amazed at the creativity.

Out and About During Half Term

- Tell someone where you're going and what time you'll be back.
- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Stick with friends you trust.
- If you feel unsafe, go somewhere public and call a trusted adult.

If You're Worried About Something

You can talk to:

- A parent, carer or trusted adult
- A member of staff or school safeguarding lead.
- Childline - 0800 1111 (free anytime)

Have a Fang-tastic Half-Term!

Enjoy dressing up, have fun, stay safe, and look after each other!