



Welcome!

Summer 2023

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

Cooking Safely with **disposable BBQ's**

Last year during the very hot weather we saw an increase in fires caused by portable BBQ's. By following a few simple guidelines, you can minimise the risks!

Before your BBQ:

- Never use your BBQ near fences, sheds, trees and shrubs or garden waste, or on a balcony.
- Never use in enclosed spaces as they produce deadly carbon monoxide!
- Check your surrounding environment is not likely to catch fire.
- Place on a flat fireproof surface, and not straight onto grass. It wouldn't hurt to keep a bucket of water nearby.
- Never add additional lighting agents, e.g., petrol, white spirit.

After your BBQ:

- Please extinguish it FULLY. You can use water or sand to do this.
- Do not attempt to move the BBQ immediately after use, even if you have extinguished it fully, as they get incredibly hot.
- Ensure that it has completely cooled down before attempting to dispose of it.
- Never just walk away and leave it there still alight.

ALWAYS keep children and pets well back from a lit BBQ.





Are you aware of the risks of **wildfires**?

Most wildfires in the UK originate from human activity. These will either be leisure activities or deliberate acts, often carried out by people unaware of the risks associated with fire, especially wildfires.

- Dispose of litter safely and correctly. Items such as glass bottles can start fires!
- Never light a fire in the countryside. Small fires can get quickly out of control!
- Always extinguish and dispose of cigarettes properly. Don't throw them on the ground or out of a car window.
- Many wildfires can be prevented. Ensure you enjoy the countryside safely.
- If you see a fire in the open, no matter how small, call 999 and get yourself to safety.





Water Safety for Children

Learning to be safe near water is an important part of a child's education. By teaching them some simple rules you can help keep them safe.

- Always walk when you are near water.
- Wear a lifejacket if you are going into open water.
- Make sure an adult is always watching and there are lifeguards present.
- Don't swim alone.
- Get out of the water if you are becoming tired.
- Stay in designated areas.
- Don't get in if there is a strong current.
- Its colder than it looks!!
- Don't jump in, it could be shallow!

In the QR code below are some interactive activities for children for you to use.





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!



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:

- **Stevenage Fire Station**
01438 202500
Stevenage.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk
- **Hitchin Fire Station**
01462 666800
Hitchin.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk
- **Royston Fire Station**
01763 822100
Royston.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk
- **Baldock and Letchworth Fire Station**
01438 847313
Baldock.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue
Community Safety



www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fire