

SEA/ML/da

24th October 2023



**Bloxwich Academy**

www.bloxwichacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carer

As we approach the October half term we wanted to share some information and guidance from West Midlands Police about safety on Halloween and Bonfire night. Both of these celebrations this year fall in the half term break and all schools have been asked to share this information with pupils, parents and carers.

### **Halloween - Tuesday 31st October 2023**

Halloween has become much more popular in recent years and is now an opportunity to celebrate, decorate and dress up for many families. However, for many, particularly elderly or vulnerable members of our communities, it can be an unsettling and scary time for those who don't like surprises or unexpected visitors at their doors. If you do plan to take younger children trick or treating, please take note of any homes which display a sign asking for 'no trick or treaters' and miss these properties out of your route. Please also remind your older children who may be out without a parent at night, of the same advice. Older children in masks or fancy dress after dark can be particularly scary for older or vulnerable people. If you or a family member/neighbour would like to display a 'no trick or treating' sign, this can be downloaded from the link below. These have been displayed on our screens around the academy over the past week, so our pupils will recognise these signs if they see them on people's windows or doors.

<https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/flysystem/public-sync/inline-files/2895-NW080923A-B-trick-or-treat-poster.pdf>

West Midlands Police have also created a parent's guide to keeping children and teenagers safe on Halloween and celebrating with Fireworks safely. This can be found on the link below:

<https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/flysystem/public-sync/inline-files/2895-NW120923A-guide-to-halloween-and-fireworks.pdf>

### **Bonfire Night - Sunday 5th November 2023**

Bonfire night falls on the second weekend of the half term holiday and as part of West Midlands Police's 'Darker Nights' campaign, a poster has been created reminding everyone of the laws around buying and setting off fireworks. Fireworks, as well as being spectacular, can be incredibly dangerous when not handled by a professional.

Remember that:

- On bonfire night, it is illegal to set off fireworks after midnight
- Don't buy professional fireworks unless you are a firework professional
- Under 18's cannot possess an adult firework in a public place



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The poster can be found at the following link:

<https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/node/6801>

This year there are two professional bonfire and firework displays in Walsall:

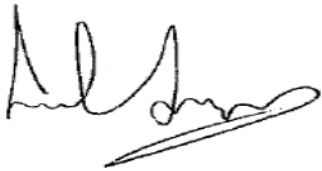
- Saturday 4th November- Walsall Arboretum
- Sunday 5th November – King George V playing fields in Bloxwich

Information and tickets can be found on the following link:

<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/newsroom/bonfire-night-celebrations-light-walsall>

We would like to wish all of our families a very safe and enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Seager  
Headteacher



Mrs M Lockley  
Assistant Headteacher -  
Designated Safeguarding Lead

