

Safeguarding Newsletter

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WELCOME

to our latest safeguarding newsletter. As always, if you have any concerns about safeguarding issues in this bulletin you can contact me at Tapton School.

Kath Tabani

PREVENTING ONLINE GROOMING

Many children enjoy playing online games and having a social media presence. As children get older, this often involves speaking with others online, which comes with the potential risk of grooming and exploitation. There are ways we can help keep our children safe. The NSPCC has published [new advice](#) on how to start age-appropriate conversations with your child on this challenging topic. This advice includes how to:

- Help your child recognise unhealthy chat online
- Have age-appropriate conversations about sexual abuse
- Explore the different communication features online
- Review safety settings

The NSPCC have also published [safety guides](#) on chat apps, including how to amend personal safety settings to automatically block strangers.

For further advice on keeping children safe online, you can call NSPCC on **0808 800 5000** for free support.

THREADS (13+)

Threads was launched by Meta (creators of Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp) in July. Users can share text posts (with images and videos) and then other users can respond to create a thread. You need to have an Instagram account to login to Threads and **you must be at least 13 years old to have an Instagram account.**

For everyone aged 13 – 17, their account will automatically be set as private when they join Threads. Users can choose specific words to filter out of replies, as well as hide offensive comments. Users can also unfollow, block and report a profile.

If you have supervision set up on Instagram for your child, then the same features will automatically be set up for Threads, such as time limits and scheduled breaks. Find out about these features more [here](#).

Your child may come across inappropriate content. It's important they know how to report/block users, how to apply privacy settings and that they know to speak to a trusted adult should they need to. Find further information [here](#).

TIKTOK GUARDIANS GUIDE

We know that you, as caregivers, want to help your teens learn about digital safety so they can manage their online presence, both now and as they grow into adulthood.

[This](#) Guardian's Guide from TikTok will provide you with the information you need to keep your child safe.

Fireworks



Fireworks

Remember, remember to celebrate safely!

Bonfire night can be great fun for all the family but it is important that you celebrate safely.

We'd encourage you to attend an organised display instead of having fireworks at home. If you do choose to have a display at home please make sure you follow the firework code.

It's a fact that many accidents are caused by improper use of fireworks and by carelessness. Figures show that children more often get hurt by fireworks than adults.

Although they look fun, fireworks are explosives and potentially dangerous. If you decide to buy some, here are some tips...

- Only buy fireworks that are CE marked.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light them at arms length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Don't set off noisy fireworks late at night and never after 11pm

Bonfire safety tips

We don't recommend having a bonfire in your garden. They can easily get out of hand and spread quickly to hedges, overhanging trees and garages, even to the house.

If you do decide to have one, please follow our advice here.

- If you are having a bonfire, discuss it with your neighbours beforehand.
- Don't build a bonfire too far in advance of the day as it can encourage anti-social behaviour.
- Build the bonfire away from sheds, fences and trees.
- Check there are no cables (for example telephone wires) above the bonfire.
- Ensure there is a suitable barrier around the bonfire to keep spectators at least five metres away.
- Always check that no children or animals are hiding in the bonfire before lighting.
- Don't burn aerosols, batteries, tyres, canisters or anything containing foam or paint – many produce toxic fumes and some containers may explode, causing injury.
- Don't use petrol, paraffin, diesel, white spirit or methylated spirit to light the bonfire.
- Keep some buckets of water nearby in case of an emergency and to damp down after the event.



Sparkler safety tips

- These are often viewed as harmless but they do burn at fierce temperatures and can easily cause injuries.
- Light sparklers one at a time.
- Supervise children with sparklers and never give them to children under five.
- Make sure everyone handling sparklers wears gloves.
- Hold sparklers at arm's length while being lit.
- Don't wave sparklers about close to other people.
- Never hold a baby in your arms while you are holding a sparkler.
- When you have finished with the sparkler put it in a bucket of cold water.