



# Welcome!

# Winter 2022

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

## Lithium Batteries and E-Scooters

You may be thinking about buying an E-Scooter for your child this Christmas, but did you know that private e-scooters are currently illegal for use on public roads and cycleways, even though they are widely available for sale? There is currently a lack of regulation of these vehicles, meaning there are no minimum vehicle standards or battery specification.

Most modern mobile devices such as mobile phones use lithium-ion batteries. Lithium-ion is the most common form of battery because it can store the most energy in the smallest space.

**Because of their tendency to catch fire, lithium-ion batteries must be looked after.**

- Only buy batteries from a reputable manufacturer.
- Unplug devices when they are fully charged to avoid overheating.
- Store batteries in a cool dry place.
- It is recommended that you do not charge items such as mobile phones or tablets under pillows or on beds.
- Avoid charging devices overnight when anyone is asleep.
- You should not charge anything in a corridor or room that provides your only way out of your home.
- Ensure there is a working smoke alarm in every room where charging takes place and charge in a location where you can close a door to prevent smoke spread.
- In the event of a fire, leave immediately and do not attempt to extinguish the fire yourself.

[E-bikes and e-scooters fire safety guidance](https://nationalfirechiefs.org.uk)  
([nationalfirechiefs.org.uk](https://nationalfirechiefs.org.uk))



## Road Safety and Drink Driving

As the party season approaches and we plan our Christmas parties, we ask that you are mindful of the dangers that drink driving pose. Just one drink can impair coordination, slow your reactions, and distort your judgement.

Drink driving is illegal and puts lives at risk. It is not possible to say how much alcohol you can drink and stay below the limit. The way alcohol affects you depends on:

- your weight, age, sex, and metabolism (the rate your body uses energy)
- the type and amount of alcohol you're drinking
- what you've eaten recently
- your stress levels at the time

**So, if you're driving, it's better to have none for the road.**

Here are a few pointers to ensure you can enjoy your night safely.

- Consider allocating a designated driver for the night. You can rotate amongst groups of friends.
- Do not drink any alcohol if you are the designated driver rather than risk it.
- Book and take taxis if you are going to drink alcohol. Make sure your friends do the same.
- Use public transport where you can and if it is safe for you to do so.
- Do not get into a car with anybody you suspect has drunk too much no matter how much pressure you feel under.
- Tell somebody who has drunk too much not to drive, you could save their life.
- Inform the police if you suspect somebody is driving under the influence.



**Drink driving – THINK!**

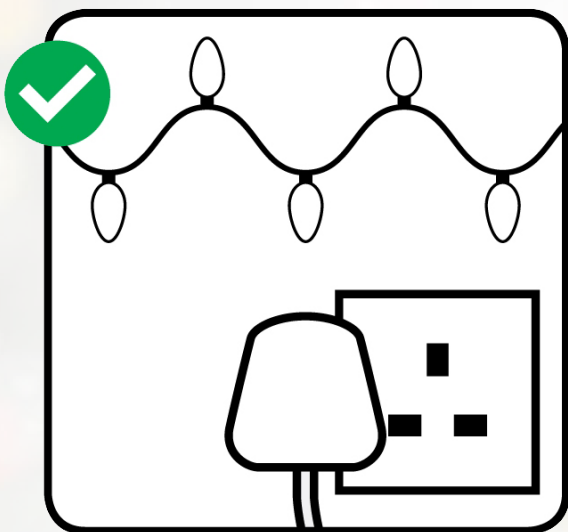


## Christmas Fairy Lights and decorations

We all love a pretty Christmas decoration and fairy lights at this time of year, but did you know unsafe use of such items as fairy lights can cause fire.

Christmas is a magical time of year and with some careful planning it can stay that way!

- Check your Christmas tree lights carry the British Safety Standard sign.
- Never place candles near your Christmas tree or materials that can catch light easily.
- Decorations can burn easily – so don't attach them to lights or heaters.
- Keep candles, lighters, and matches out of children's reach. Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Never overload electrical sockets.
- Always switch Christmas lights off and unplug them before you go to bed





## Family Escape Plan for your loved ones.

**At Christmas it's great to have the family come over and stay!**

Have you thought about how you would all escape in the unlikely case of a fire? It only takes 5 minutes to run through your escape plan and can save lives!

- Be prepared by making a plan of escape
- Make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- Think of a second route in case the first one is blocked.
- Take a few minutes to practise your escape plan.
- Review your plan if the layout of your home changes.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.





We work closely with Hertfordshire Police and Safer Neighbourhood Teams to ensure our local communities feel safe in their homes and when out and about. The below website offers items for you to purchase to keep your personal belongings safe and ensure you are protected against theft.

<https://owlprotect.uk/index.php/>

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

- **Hemel Hempstead Fire Station**  
01442 867132  
[HemelHempstead.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:HemelHempstead.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
- **St Albans Fire Station**  
01992 507650  
[StAlbans.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:StAlbans.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

-  Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
-  Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Community Safety