



Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **HALLOWEEN & BONFIRE PERIOD – PLEASE HELP US!**

During this time of year, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service's valuable resources are overstretched by attending deliberate fires such as bonfires, wheelie bin fires and rubbish fires associated with Anti-Social Behaviour.

We ask for your co-operation by ensuring that your children do not participate in such behaviour during this busy period and that you discuss the dangers and consequences associated with fire setting and firework misuse.

We also ask that you **do not** provide young people with bonfire materials and that you utilise rubbish removal services as provided within your area.

Safe storage of wheelie bins should also be considered as they are often utilised in deliberate fires. If possible, store your wheelie bins away from windows and doors and ensure they are not easily accessible to the general public.

A zero tolerance approach will be adopted during this period, which may lead to your son or daughter being fined, arrested for their behaviour and/or made subject to enforcement action.

### **Stay safe and have fun by following some simple tips!!**

- Go to organised displays and events this Bonfire season.
- Remember, you must be 18 to buy fireworks and always buy fireworks that meet the BS7114 standard from a recommended retailer
- Don't give sparklers to children under 5-years-old
- Keep pets indoors so they won't get hurt or frightened
- Mention this advice to neighbours, especially elderly or vulnerable people
- Please take extra care if children are wearing fancy dress costumes. Fancy dress costumes should be kept away from lit pumpkins, lanterns and fires
- If you witness any suspicious or anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood, please contact the Police

To report an unlit bonfire or the storage of bonfire materials that need to be removed, arrange a Home Fire Safety Check or for arson prevention advice, call Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service on 0800 731 5958. Outside office hours, please leave a message with your details and a contact number.

In an emergency, always call **999**