



Leventhorpe

a business and enterprise academy

23 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support over this half term. It has been a huge effort to ensure we are able to operate within Covid guidelines and the students have been resilient and very understanding. I would like to thank my staff for all of the additional things they have had to do to ensure the smooth running of the school. From discussions with students and staff I know most of us are very tired and we are all looking forward to a break over half term. Please do let school know of any confirmed cases of Covid-19 during the half term break. Please contact Mr Dyke on JAD@leventhorpe.net. I would also like to remind all students to wear masks whilst moving around the school, as well as out and about over half term.

I attach a letter from Chris Hunt from Hertfordshire Police. He raises some very important points about antisocial behaviour and problems that occurred in the area last year. I had discussions last autumn with a local resident who had a firework thrown at his young daughter by local youths and I assured him I would raise concerns this autumn about young people meeting up to cause damage and threatening the safety and welfare of others in our community. Covid restrictions mean groups of over six should not be meeting up for any reason. I hope parents will support this and the messages around fireworks and Halloween in the attached letter from the Police.

Have a great half term break.

Yours faithfully,

Mr White
Headteacher

Parent / Guardian

October 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

Re: October Half term

We are writing to you as a parent or guardian of a young person who attends a school within East Herts and seeking your support in the forthcoming weeks in regards to Halloween and Fireworks.

Regrettably last year there was an increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the district from young people, including the misuse of fireworks. There were groups of young people causing a nuisance in public places resulting in several members of the public to feel alarmed and distressed. In addition one Police Community Support Officer sustained a serious burn to their leg after having a lit firework thrown at her.

Those who were responsible for this behaviour were identified and action taken against them. In some areas the ASB was planned and arranged over social media with groups targeting locations and meeting points.

Over the past year agencies within the East Herts Community Safety Partnership (CSP) have been working together to ensure that these incidents do not occur again this year. Some of the planned actions cannot be progressed due to the pandemic and current government restrictions, however it is perhaps even more important that we have your support during these uncertain times to keep our communities safe.

We are therefore asking that you ensure you know where your child / children is/are during the half term break and the days that lead up to and after Halloween. You remind them of the 'rule of six' and advise that **any** young person found to be causing ASB will have robust action taken against them. We would also ask that if you hear of any planned activity that you report it to Herts Police on 101 or email community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk. Police will be increasing patrols and also using powers under the ASB Crime and Policing Act to take young people home. Information of those responsible for any ASB will be shared with schools and other relevant agencies (such as Housing providers).

Proactive work is also happening with firework retailers and also information will be circulated in communities on how to enjoy the Halloween and Firework season responsibly and safely.

At the time of writing we await advice from Public Health England in respect of trick or treating. We will be publishing any further advice on our CSP Facebook page (East Herts Community Safety Partnership), Police Twitter accounts and East Herts Council's website as it is received.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support in keeping East Herts a safe place to live, visit and work, and not allowing the behaviour of the minority to negatively impact upon communities.

Yours faithfully



Chris Hunt
Safer Neighbourhood Inspector

Hertfordshire Constabulary



Julie Pomfrett
Community Safety &
ASB Manager

East Herts Council

Halloween 2020

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. We have therefore developed these guidelines to help our residents have a safe Halloween.

If you have COVID-19 or are self isolating, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and especially should not hand out treats or sweets to people who visit (eg for “trick-or-treat”).)

No risk activities

These activities can be safe alternatives:

- Carving pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them.
- Decorating your home
- A Halloween scavenger hunt where accompanied children are given lists of Halloween-themed items to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance.
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween film night with your household or people in your support bubble.

Moderate risk activities

- “No contact” goodie bags - where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
 - If you are preparing goodie bags, [wash your hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group (no more than 6) , outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 2 metres apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
 - A costume mask (such as for Hallowe'en) is **not** a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should **not** be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face.
 - Do **not** wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.

- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 2 metres apart. Do not mix outside your households or bubbles.
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing

High risk activities

Avoid these high risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Participating in traditional door to door trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children.
- Crowded costume parties held indoors (these are unlawful under the regulations)
- Going to an indoor “haunted house” where people may be crowded together and screaming.
- Using [alcohol or drugs](#), which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviours.

Illegal Activities

Gathering in groups of more than 6 people or multiple households unless as part of a properly organised COVID secure event (by a charity or public body) is illegal and Police can take enforcement action including fines.