



Halloween 2016

A Police message for parents from PC Graham Slater Safer Schools Partnership Officer

- It may seem as if we've only just left the summer holidays behind however Halloween will soon be upon us again on 31st October, which this year falls on the Monday after half term break. In previous years, we have had a few problems in the local area with anti-social behaviour caused by a small number of teenagers who think this period is an excuse to behave in a disorderly way. Examples include vandalism, egg & flour throwing, underage drinking and illegal use of fireworks.

Parents, please speak with your children if they are planning to go out on Halloween night and evenings across the holiday week. Make sure you know where they will be going, who they will be with and what they plan to do !

- In the lead up to this period there has again been a combined effort between a number of local agencies including Police, Berks Fire & Rescue Service and Local Authority staff to try reduce any such problems across the half term week. There will also be increased Police and Community Warden patrols during this period to reassure residents and deter any antisocial acts. Those that do decide to behave in this way will be dealt with firmly.
- Please also consider the safety of your children. Trick or Treat is really an activity for younger children who should always be escorted by a responsible adult. Ideally; arrangements should be made in advance with householders that are happy to receive them. Teenagers should know that going around in large groups can be intimidating to many residents, road users and pedestrians. Elderly and vulnerable members of the community can find Halloween a particularly worrying time when they receive repeated calls at their door. Many residents do not want to receive Trick or Treaters at this time and their privacy and peace should be respected and not result in them becoming targets for abuse and vandalism.
- **You may have also seen recent reports in the national media concerning the issue of "creepy clowns" causing alarm and behaving in a distressing way. Thames Valley Police is treating any such reports very seriously, so again please don't allow your children to get involved in anything of this nature and please report anything of concern immediately.**

For further Halloween advice please contact the Schools Officer or your local Neighbourhood Policing Team via the central police number : 101

Further details can be found on the Thames Valley Police website at :

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crime-prevention/seasonal-events/seasonal-events-halloween.htm>

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents-pressreleases-item.htm?id=342790>

