ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service is actively trying to reduce the number of deliberately started small fires such as rubbish and bonfires across our county. Last year (2025), they attended 218 deliberately started small fires over the bonfire period. This was a reduction of 18.7% compared with 2020.

You can help to reduce the number of incidents by NEVER giving combustible materials to anyone, especially young people. Make sure your wheelie bin is not accessible to others and ensure any flammable material is kept out of sight.

Their message is simple, have fun but stay safe during the bonfire season.

Bonfire Safety Tips

If you have a bonfire, follow these simple guidelines:

- Bonfires can only be held on private land with the owner's permission
- Warn your neighbours beforehand - so they are aware and can make necessary preparations
- Only burn dry material, do not burn anything which is wet or damp, this causes more smoke
- Check there are no cables (telephone wires etc.) above the bonfire
- Build the bonfire well away from buildings, sheds, fences and trees
- Do not use petrol or paraffin to start the fire it can get out of control quickly

Once the bonfire is lit, make sure you:

- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby - in case of emergencies
- Do not leave the bonfire unattended
- Keep children and pets away from the bonfire
- Do not throw any fireworks into the fire
- Do not burn aerosols, tyres, canisters or anything containing foam or paint - this could produce toxic fumes and some containers may explode, causing injury
- Once the bonfire has died down, pour water on the embers to stop it reigniting and ensure it is completely extinguished

This week, we want you to enjoy attending any bonfires or fireworks displays – but in the safest way possible. Following the guidance above should go a long way in ensuring those events can be enjoyed to the maximum, without accident and injury.

Regards,

The Safeguarding Team