

Keeping Safe over February Half term 2025

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Today we want to talk to you about some important issues that you could realistically face this half term.....

- Staying safe online
- Mental Health
- Knife Crime and the law (PC Kay)
- Risky areas and Public Transport (PC Kay)
- Staying safe if approached by risky young people or adults (PC Kay)

Online Safety

- Group Chats - if it becomes negative, unpleasant or inappropriate. Remove yourself from it straight away. If you know someone could come to harm tell an adult. Be responsible.
- Gaming - know who you are communicating with. Don't be fooled. Don't be naive. Just play on games with your friends.
- Social Media - be wise, don't post anything offensive or inappropriate. DO NOT communicate with anyone you don't know.
- Sharing Images - say NOOOOOOOOOO. Have pride in yourself. Do not fold under pressure. This is NOT normal behaviour and not what a healthy relationship involves.

Mental Health

- It is OK not to be OK..... we all have bad days, feel low, worry and can be anxious. This is normal.
- If you aren't feeling well speak to a parent, relative, friend or anyone that you trust. Those that know you best will be able to help you.
- Eat and Sleep properly.
- Exercise, even if it is just a short walk.
- If you need more specialist help there is lots of help online



Knife Crime and the Law

- Any child over the age of 10 years old can be arrested if they commit a criminal offence.
- Any person found in possession of an offensive weapon or knife will face being arrested and will receive a criminal record.
- Any pupil found in possession of an offensive weapon or knife on school premises will also face being arrested and will lose their place in school.
- If you carry a weapon or knife you are 70% more likely to become a victim of knife crime yourself.
- Maximum sentence for a young person being in possession of knife is 4 years in prison depending on the circumstances.

Consequences.....



Risky areas in Birmingham and Solihull and public transport

- Oaklands Rec - robbery hot spot in East Birmingham.
- Fox Hollies Park - secluded area away from main roads.
- Ackers Trust - another robbery hot spot in East Birmingham
- Tudor Grange Park, Solihull
- If travelling on the bus or trains sit in a visible seat where other passengers are present. Robberies on buses are increasing all the time as are crimes like sexual assault. If you are concerned speak to the driver, immediately.

Do not draw attention to yourself. Expensive items such as phones, airpods will appeal to thieves.

Staying safe if approached by risky young people or adults

- It is important to be aware at all times if you are out without an adult.
- Stay with friends that you trust - don't leave anyone on their own and if you are making your way home check in with them to make sure they are home.
- Worst case scenario - you are approached by someone you don't know and they ask you to hand over your phone.. What do I do next?

Listen to PC Kay very, very carefully.

Let us pray..

Lord God, crime is on the increase within our city and our country.

From the depths of our hearts we pray that you will comfort, heal, and bless all victims of crime.

Amen

Violence will no longer be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you shall call your walls salvation and your gates praise.

Isaiah 60:18

We wish you a happy and safe Half term. You need a break from school and we need a break from you!!

From DC and PC Kay and all the staff please look after yourselves next week and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 24th February.