



# HALLOWEEN

## Halloween

Are you planning to go out trick or treating with your mates this Halloween?

You might think it is all a bit of harmless fun, but sometimes the people you call on might not want to be disturbed.

For people who are elderly, vulnerable or who live on their own, it can be quite scary and distressing to have young people banging on their doors unexpectedly.

To stop this from happening, signs have been produced so that people can display on their doors or windows if they do not want to be bothered by trick or treaters.

What we are asking you to do is to keep an eye out for these signs, and if you see one in a house, please don't go and knock on that door – move on to a house where there is no sign.

We don't want to stop your fun, but we also don't want you to upset other people while you are doing this. It can be frightening for people who are elderly or those who live on their own

All you need to do is watch out for the signs and don't trick or treat where you are not wanted.

Also, here are some tips that you should follow on Halloween night to help keep yourself and your friends safe:

- Only go to houses where you or your friends know the people who live there.
- Don't go into the houses - stay on the doorstep.
- Stay in areas that are well lit with streetlights.
- Stick together with your friends – don't go off on your own.
- Wear bright clothing so you are visible, and take care when crossing road.

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## ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



Halloween is a fun time for children (and adults) – Here are some sensible tips to make sure your children stay safe.

- Think about keeping the kids in doors with a Halloween party with traditional games
- If the children want to go trick or treating, make sure an adult or a teenage sibling (or 2) goes with them
- Make sure your child's costume is safe – not dangling on the ground – that they can see clearly – they are fire-safe – carried props are safe and blunt and HARMLESS
- Battery operated Pumpkin Lanterns are much safer than ones with candles – and they don't keep blowing out in the wind – a torch is also a good idea!
- Make sure someone has a phone in case things go wrong
- Agree a route so you know where they are at all times
- Have an agreed time to stop – most people don't want to be disturbed by trick or treaters after 8pm
- Only call on people you know - some people don't like or are frightened by strangers at their door – some people put signs in their window to say No Trick or Treat - treat those people with respect and leave them alone
- Tell your children to NEVER go into a strangers house to collect their treat – the doorstep is the place to stay
- Make sure your children know that the trick part is a NO NO – throwing eggs at a house or car is not fun for the person who has to clean it up and is vandalism
- Make sure your children do not eat the sweets they are given until they come home and you have had a chance to check they are safe
- If you or your children see someone causing vandalism or committing a crime – get safely away and phone the police on 0845 0901234 - if you see a serious crime taking place phone 999 and ask for the police