



Safe At Summerhill

At Summerhill School we are committed to Safeguarding our children and young people as well as promoting positive well-being for all.

This Safeguarding newsletter, aims to help staff, parents and students alike to be aware of the safeguarding and mental health issues, giving you useful links and resources to use if you have concerns. If you have concerns or ideas for future topics please do not hesitate to contact us on the main school number 01384 816165 or via email on studentssupport@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

Attendance & Safeguarding

Good attendance at school is essential for your child to reach their full potential. In addition to this we must keep safeguarding students and families at the centre of our practices. As such we would like to remind you that if your child is not in school for 3 days and we have not had contact with you a member of our house team will complete a home visit to check everything is OK. In addition if your child has been absent from school for 5 days and you have contacted us we will also complete a home visit. We believe this is key to ensure family safety, provides opportunities to talk about any concerns and give time to create a support plan to reintegrate into school. If for some reason you are not at home when we drop by we will leave a note so you know we have been.

Safeguarding Update - Jeffy

Online safeguarding experts have received reports about a YouTube cartoon series called Jeffy. At first glance, the puppet-style cartoon could be mistaken for child-appropriate content. However, Jeffy is part of a wider trend of animated videos that may look child-friendly but content-wise, they're anything but. Jeffy is a puppet character with over 5 million subscribers. The character of Jeffy has been criticised for portraying an offensive stereotype of someone with unspecified learning difficulties or disability. The creator has argued against this characterisation, saying Jeffy is meant to be funny and does not represent someone with a disability. Despite the video's child-friendly animation style, our online safety experts found videos portraying sexual content, nudity, violence, gore, profanity and more inappropriate themes. If you would like to read more please follow this link [Safeguarding update - Jeffy](#)

Supporting Young People In The Modern World Workshop

A date for the diary at Summerhill School is our workshop which will be held on Tuesday 28th November. These workshops are open to parents/carers of students from any year group who would like extra information on ways to support their child. We have different sessions including: How to support your child with reading, how to use schools apps to support your child, how to make the right decisions about vaping, how to stay safe in the local community and how to have conversations about wellbeing and mental health. We are so excited to hold this workshop for our Summerhill families, if you would like to book a place please follow this link <https://summerhill.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Cost of Living Support Hubs

A new hub is being opened in Pensnett at the Grace Community Church, this will be open Tuesdays from 28th November 09:30-15:30. Please see the next page for all information on how to attend a hub within the Dudley Borough and how to book an appointment.



Mrs Sprouting
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Randle
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead



Ms Gordon
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Quirke
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Cresswell
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT HUBS

Cost of Living Hubs are located at:



Pensnett, Grace Community Church, Tiled House Lane, Pensnett
Open Tuesdays from 28th November 9:30am - 3:30pm



Brierley Hill, Brierley Hill Methodist Church, 24 Bank Street, Brierley Hill
Open Alternating Wednesdays, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Halesowen, Halesowen Library, The Cornbow Centre, 7th Floor, Halesowen
Open Alternating Wednesdays, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Stourbridge, Christ Church, High Street, Lye
Open Thursdays from 28th September, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Dudley, Provision House, 80-81 High Street, Dudley
Open Fridays, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Winter Ready Criteria

Updated for the upcoming season, recognising the added financial strains. We are here to help!
WE ARE OPENING A NEW HUB IN PENSNETT ON 28th NOVEMBER 2023!!

The criteria for visiting the Cost of Living Support Hubs has also changed.

**FROM THE W/B 20TH NOVEMBER, HOUSEHOLDS CAN NOW VISIT
THE COST OF LIVING SUPPORT HUBS 3 MORE TIMES.**

Attendance history will be wiped. It doesn't matter if you've attended a Hub before.

Households are permitted to attend up to 3 times starting from the week beginning 20th November.
This means 3 visits across any of our Hubs and not each Hub.

Please remember there must be a minimum of 12 days between each appointment.

Households must reside in the Dudley Borough.

Assistance Available

Insightful presentations on ways to save money on utilities
and how to make your money stretch further.

Practical help relating to access to food, fuel, energy,
available benefits, grants and funds based on qualifying criteria.

Issuing a voucher per household to purchase essentials
(NB: these vouchers can only be issued in a crisis, and are subject to availability)

Issuing a fuel bank voucher
(NB: subject to eligibility)

Identifying other organisations that can help with the struggles being experienced.

How to Book

To see available dates and book an appointment visit our Eventbrite page:
https://CA_DudleyandWolverhampton.eventbrite.com

Support is only offered by attending a pre booked appointment.
Appointments cannot be booked directly at the venues.

Appointments can only be booked via visiting our Eventbrite page.

Only one appointment per household is required, regardless of how many members of the
household are attending on the day.

If you are not eligible your appointment may be cancelled
or you will be refused entry on the day.

ID Evidence Required

On the day of your appointment, you must bring with you 2 forms of ID:

1 form of ID with your Full Name (passport, travel pass, debit card, driving license etc)

AND

1 recent letter/bill dated within the last 3 months including your name and address
to prove you're a Dudley Borough resident.
(e.g. a recent council tax bill, gas/electric/water bill, benefits awards letter, letter from Dudley
Council, letter from the Government, PIP or DLA letter, TV license etc)

We reserve the right to request photo ID when you are at the hub to authenticate your ID.

We reserve the right to cancel the appointment should we feel the ID is not that of the appointment
holder or that the ID is not authentic.

For more information on Cost of Living support, go to:

<https://DudleyWolverhamptonCA.eventbrite.com>
<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/costofliving>
<https://www.facebook.com/CitizensAdviceDudleyAndWolverhampton/>

Please share this information with the community to ensure we can support as many individuals
and families as possible in the coming months.

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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