



R B F & R S

news release

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NATIONAL SCHOOLS' FIRE SAFETY DAY 2009

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is teaming up with a local school to support the first National Schools' Fire Safety Day on Wednesday 14 October. Community Safety staff from RBFRS will be spending the day at Owlsmoor Primary School in Sandhurst, delivering fire safety education to pupils from Year 1 and Year 5.

Each lesson plan contains appropriate material for the target age group and complements the Citizenship and Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE) National Curriculum requirements. The lesson for Year 1 pupils includes information about what firefighters do, what starts fires, the difference between good and bad fires, the importance of smoke alarms and how to stop, drop and roll. The Year 5 lesson provides greater detail about how fires start and smoke alarms, and also includes how to make an escape plan, how to make a 999 call and the dangers of making hoax calls. Both lesson plans are fun and interactive, giving pupils the opportunity to share their ideas, and finish with a quiz to ensure they have understood what they have learned.

RBFRS provides a rolling education programme to Year 1 and Year 5 pupils in schools across Berkshire, delivered either by firefighters or RBFRS Community Safety staff.

Jane Weller, Community Safety Officer, said: "Teaching children about fire safety is vital and our education programme is one of the key ways we do this. Talking about the importance of having smoke alarms and testing them weekly, for example, can significantly reduce the risk of having an accidental house fire.

"Unfortunately, we can't visit every school on National Schools' Fire Safety Day itself but if you are a Head Teacher at a school and would like a future visit from us, please contact Laura Stopforth or Linda Dixon on **0118 932 2786** or email community.safety@rbfrs.co.uk. Teachers, parents and children can also find a wealth of safety information on StayWise, our interactive educational website – visit us at www.staywise.co.uk."

ENDS.

Notes to Editors:

National Schools' Fire Safety Day is organised by the Fire Kills campaign and the Fire Fighters Charity to encourage primary school children to be more aware of fire safety issues.

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