



# Lindsworth School

## Winter Safety

### Our Values:

- Positivity
- Respect
- Independence
- Determination
- Equality

As the weather gets colder and the cost-of-living increases, the West Midlands Fire Service has collated some top tips to help you stay safe while trying to reduce the cost of heating or lighting your home.

Please take time to read this advice or look at tips on:

- Heating
- candle safety
- Portable heater safety
- smoke alarms

### Keeping Warm and Staying Safe

There has been an increase in people using electric blankets and hot water bottles. Age UK say that damaged electric blankets cause more than 5,000 house fires a year. Danger signs include: fraying fabric, scorch marks, exposed elements, a worn flex.

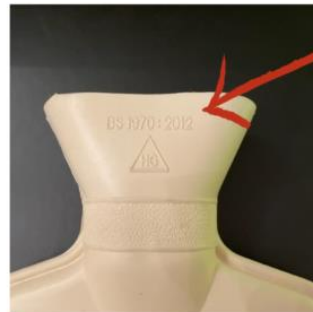
Did you know that hot water bottles have an expiry date? An old hot water bottle could burst and scold you. Hot water bottles should be replaced every two years. You can check the manufacture date by looking at the wheel as explained in this image. If your hot water bottle doesn't have the wheel on it, it will have a BS safety standard, such as BS 1970:2012

**There are 12 segments around the wheel, representing each month of the year**

**Manufactured in 2020**

**The last dot is in the 6th segment so it was made in June 2020.**

**This hot water bottle is over 2 years old and is dangerous to use.**



**BS safety standard**





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### Candle Safety

Possible behavioural changes may include the use of candles to provide lighting. We know that candles are used more in winter months with certain festivals and the cost of electricity may exacerbate this usage. Risks could include use of candles near curtains or not securing them in an appropriate holder. A safer alternative to real candles are battery operated lights which can be obtained from high street shops. Further safety advice is available here: [www.wmfs.net/safety/candle-safety/](http://www.wmfs.net/safety/candle-safety/)

### Portable Heater Safety

With gas, electricity and heating oil prices increasing people may look at alternative forms of heating. These could include the use of portable gas heaters, oil filled radiators and electric fan heaters to name a few. Fires can be caused if these are used or situated incorrectly, for example placed too close to combustible materials. Further safety advice is available here: [www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/guidance/product-safety/portable-heaters/](http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/guidance/product-safety/portable-heaters/)

### Smoke Alarms

We know this Winter is going to be challenging for many in our communities and there are going to be difficult choices about heating and cooking as previously highlighted. As well as the increased risk of fire there is also the threat of increased levels of carbon monoxide in the home which can lead to individuals becoming seriously ill.

With effect from 1st October 2022 all landlords must ensure that:

- there is at least one smoke detector on each floor of their homes where there is a room used as living accommodation.
- a carbon monoxide alarm is fitted in any room used as living accommodation which contains a fixed combustion appliance, with the exception of gas cookers e.g. log burner or a gas fire.
- smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide alarms are repaired or replaced by the landlord once they are informed or find out that they are faulty.

To make a referral  
for a Safe and Well  
Visit, please use  
this QR code:

