



# SAFER



# SCHOOLS

## April 2021

Welcome to April's newsletter. We hope you all had a very happy and safe Easter break.

As usual this newsletter has been designed to support and advise Parents and Carers of **both** Primary and Secondary school children, and therefore trust your personal judgement to share what you feel will be **relevant** information with your child.

## Lost children!

Young children are intensely curious with a tendency to wander off out of your sight. Losing your child in a busy place is every parent's worst nightmare. There will be a split second of panic when you realise your child is not close by, not to mention the frightening experience and effect it can have on a child if they become lost.



It is hoped that in the very near future the restrictions of lockdown will be lifted and we will all soon be able to venture outside again and start to visit public places. Therefore, now might be a good opportunity to revisit any safety plan that you may have already put in place to help prevent your child from wandering off or going missing.



Here are some safety tips and advice for **all** children to know should they become lost:

### NAME, ADDRESS, NUMBER:

As soon as children are able to understand, teach them their full name, address and telephone number. Practice these with them until you're sure they can remember.

### KEEP IN SIGHT:

In most situations, children under about ten years old shouldn't be out alone, especially in busy towns. Even when out playing, they need to be kept in sight of a responsible adult or a trusted older sibling.

### NEVER LEAVE ALONE:

Don't leave young children unsupervised in play areas, shops, parks or in a car - even if it's only for a few minutes.

### HOLD ON:

When you're in a crowded place, hold hands, use reins or keep younger children in a buggy. Don't walk ahead of a toddler, it only takes a moment for them to wander off.

### IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY:

You can begin teaching children about safety when they're as young as two or three. Tell them clearly they mustn't go off with anyone, not even someone they know, without asking you first. With older children, make sure they remember to tell you who they are going out with, where they are going and when they'll be back.

### PRACTICE:

Teach older children how to be safe while out and about e.g. road safety and how to recognise who is a safe trusted adult to ask for help. Let them practice with you until you are sure that they've understood. Always remember the limits of their age and maturity. Teaching them about safety needn't mean being overprotective - let them gradually take more responsibility as their awareness develops.

### SAFE PLACE:

In busy public places, arrange somewhere safe to meet in case you get separated, like an information desk. Make sure children know what to do if they ever get lost, and explain who they can approach to ask for help - a Police Officer, shop assistant or a trusted adult.

For further information and useful tips watch this short video called 'Safety on the Street' by Parent Channel.TV  
<https://youtu.be/-l4iYByzMkK>

Call: 101

Telephone: 18001 101

Visit: [cambs.police.uk](http://cambs.police.uk)

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## Don't be a fool money mule!!

### What is a money mule?

A money mule is someone who transfers stolen money through their own bank account on behalf of someone else and is paid for doing so.

Criminals need money mules to launder the profits of their crimes.

Young people are increasingly being targeted to become money mules. They are approached online or in person, including through social media, at school, college or sports clubs. Sometimes people they know persuade them to take part, often because they are also acting as money mules.

Mules will usually be unaware of where the money comes from and that it can go on to fund crimes such as drug dealing and people trafficking.



### Being a money mule is illegal!!!

When someone is caught, their bank account will be closed, and they will have problems getting student loans, mobile phone contracts and credit in the future. They could even face arrest for money laundering which carries a maximum sentence of **14 years in prison**.

For further understanding on Money Mules watch this short video made by the Metropolitan Police

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOLiXY09OzI>

Parents & Carers, we need your help to warn children & young people about the dangers and consequences of becoming a money mule.

- Make sure your child doesn't give their bank account details to anyone unless they know and trust them.
- Encourage them to be wary of job offers where all interactions are online and to research any 'company' or person that offers them a job.
- Tell them to be cautious of unsolicited offers of easy money, because if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Look out for your child suddenly having extra cash, buying expensive new clothes or electronics with very little explanation as to how they got the money.

A young person involved in money muling may become more secretive, withdrawn or appear stressed.

If you think they are involved in a money mule scheme, tell them to stop transferring money immediately, notify their bank and report it to the police.

**Please do not attempt to contact any individual you suspect of organising money muling.**

If you are worried that someone close to you might be caught up in money muling, you can contact anonymously:

**Crimestoppers:** 0800 555 111 [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Further information can be found at [www.moneymules.co.uk](http://www.moneymules.co.uk) or <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/public-awareness-and-prevention-guides/money-muling>



## Get help faster in an emergency:



We are encouraging all Parents & Carers, including any children and young person who have access to a mobile phone to download and start using the **WHAT3WORDS** app. Having this app on your phone and being familiar with how to use it, could literally make a difference between life or death in emergency situations.

### What is what3words?

What3words has divided the globe into 3 metre squares and given each square a unique 3 word address. It means everywhere can be located with just three words. For example: **Shadow.gravy.even** will take you to a precise spot in a field next to the River Nene in Peterborough or **Gains.payout.dugouts** will take you to a precise area within Wandlebury Country park in Cambridge.

Emergency Services in Cambridgeshire are accepting 3 word addresses and are successfully locating people who are in need of immediate assistance but are unaware of their location.

### This is how it works:

1. Find the 3 word address for your current location on the free what3words app for [iOS](#) and [Android](#). It works offline – ideal for areas with unreliable data connection.
2. Inform the call handler of the 3 words listed on the App.
3. The emergency service can then coordinate a response directly to the exact location where help is needed.

You can find out [more about what3words here](#) and watch this short video by Cambs, Beds and Herts police. <https://youtu.be/HNA4lmoCJN4>

## Seat Belts and the law

As lockdown eases we will all be hoping to travel a little bit more!!! Here are some helpful tips, advice and information on Seat belts and the law when driving with children on board.

It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that children are in and using the appropriate restraints when travelling in a vehicle. To find out more follow this link [seatbelts and the law](#). Children must be secured into a child seat when travelling by car until they are **12 years old or 135 centimetres tall**. There are few exemptions to this and the following link will explain further [-child car seats and the law](#).

ROSPA has a dedicated [child car seats website](#) with information on safety. This includes advice on choosing and fitting a car seat.

**Think**, one of the road safety websites has a wealth of information covering all aspects of road safety. They have also developed a campaign to ensure maximum understanding for children and young people by using emojis [www.think.gov.uk](http://www.think.gov.uk)



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