

**HISK/CIR/023/1920**

**23 Oct 2019**

**Dear Parents,**

**Greetings from HIS K!**

The season of Festivals has started and ‘Diwali’ is round the corner. It is a festival of Joy, Light and Splendour. In the present scenario, festivals have become a challenge to our society in terms of maintaining harmony with Man and Nature. It is our duty to instill awareness in our Students to contribute positively and become useful members of Society.

Every year a number of children and adults lose their eye sights and sustain burns during the festival. Damage to property due to mishaps cannot be ruled out also. Another concern is the Festival of Lights is the amount of pollution that takes place. As conscious citizens it is our duty to act wisely and celebrate it in a safe and green way.

**The Possible Dangers of Crackers**

- The poisonous chemical mix discharged from fire crackers affect people with asthma and other respiratory disorders.
- Studies have shown that fire crackers have significant amount of heavy metals such as Lead and Cadmium and their fumes contain oxides of Sulphur, Phosphorous, Nitrogen and Carbon, which are highly harmful especially for young children.
- The oxides from the chemicals discharged from burning fire crackers, come into contact with moisture while passing from nostrils to the lungs and form acids, which damage the body.
- Firecracker injuries occur due to the pressure wave created because of explosion which causes severe injuries around the eyes, eye lids and cornea.

**Safe Crackers**

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) labs have been successful in developing various environment-friendly fireworks such as sound emitting crackers, flowerpots, pencils, chakkar and sparklers. These fireworks, based on new formulations developed by CSIR, have been manufactured and are available in the Indian market for consumers and sellers.

A Green Logo as well as a Quick Response (QR) coding system has been developed for differentiation of green crackers from conventional crackers. QR codes are a novel feature incorporated on the fire crackers to avoid manufacture and sale of counterfeit products. This will also help the consumers to track the cracker using smart phones and other devices. The cost of the green crackers is almost same as that of regular crackers .

### **Some Tips for a Safe and Pollution Free Diwali-**

- Avoid using electric lights to illuminate your home. Instead, opt for diyas (earthen lamps) and candles.
- Limit usage of firecrackers that emit enormous smoke and sound
- Dispose off waste properly after celebrations.
- Select eco-friendly gifts and decorating items.
- Earthen lamps and candles should be placed safely away from any flammable material like wood, cloth or paper and electric wires.
- Electric lights should never be tied to any metal poles as any leakage of current can energize the pole and give an electric shock to anyone who touches it.
- Don't burn firecrackers inside the house as this will have a dangerous impact on allergy and asthma patients.
- Never try to re-ignite the fireworks that don't light in the first instance.
- Only one person at a time should be allowed to light a firecracker. Avoid bursting crackers on terrace and park vehicles at safe place in case of bursting crackers on road.
- Children should never be left alone and everyone should use a long candle to light crackers.
- Purchase firecrackers from authorized dealers and keep them away from children.
- When lighting fire crackers, wear close-fitting thick cotton clothes instead of loose fitting synthetic clothing and ensure that you keep a bucket of water nearby while lighting fire crackers.
- Do not get exposed to direct smoke, as it may lead to choking effect. Stay away and cover nose and mouth.
- Preferable to stay indoors with windows and doors closed. Use an air conditioner or air purifier with a good filter during the heaviest fireworks celebrations.
- Wear a paper or gauze mask to decrease smoke inhalation unless it interferes with regular breathing.
- Wash your eyes, nose, mouth, hands with warm water after exposure to firecrackers.
- Keep your essential medication within reach.

- It is desirable to seek medical advice at the earliest, in the first sign of breathlessness or severe non-retracting cough.
- Immediate first aid for eyes is to wash eyes thoroughly with potable water for 25 minutes and in case of serious infection or injury, one should consult an eye specialist within an hour.
- Buckets filled with water should be kept nearby.
- Women in later stages of pregnancy should be more careful

Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Mr Harsh Vardhan on Saturday launched a set of new crackers that promises to help reduce particulate emissions by 30 per cent while producing the same level of light and sound effects of traditional fireworks.

Let us all pledge to Celebrate -

- A smokeless Diwali
- A breathe easy Diwali
- Use Diyas for lighting.
- Eco-friendly crackers

Let us fill our homes with Lights & Prayers, not with Fumes & Crackers

**HIS K wishes all our dear Parents & Students a very safe, happy and prosperous Diwali !!!**

*Iris Theodore*

**PRINCIPAL**