



Sevenoaks District
Community Safety Partnership

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Community Safety News

Can you do the Digital Sunset Challenge?



Government Minister helps young people turn off their phones

Around 2,000 local school children took part in a challenge to turn off their phones and devices in the evening before they go to bed.

Government Minister, Sajid Javid MP, launched the Digital Sunset Challenge on 5 February at Sevenoaks Primary School with the help of Year 6 pupils a day before National Safer Internet Day. The scheme encourages young people to switch off their electronic devices before bedtime to help develop a lifetime of good digital habits.



We all know mobile phones and other devices offer great opportunities for learning, creativity and, above all, having fun. But there's huge pressure on young people to stay connected online at all times. Using their devices before bed or having a smartphone in the bedroom has been shown to disrupt sleep, making it much harder to develop and learn.



The scheme invites school children and their families to put smart phones away early in the evening and, during the Challenge week, make a note of the time they stopped using their devices, when they went to bed and how they felt the next day.

The Community Safety Manager, PCSOs and Community Warden attended assemblies at 19 participating schools taking part in the Digital Sunset Challenge. The assemblies were fun and engaging and the schools rolled it out across the whole school. One school delivered in house. The primary schools that took part were:-

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|--------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Solefield | St Bartholomew's | Penshurst | The Granville |
| St Thomas | Weald Community | Crockenhill | Churchill Primary |
| Fawkham | Sevenoaks Prep | Crockham Hill | Radnor School |
| Sevenoaks | St Katherine's | Horton Kirby | West Heath |
| St Boltolphs | Edenbridge | Seal | |

The Digital Sunset Challenge was founded by Cllr Anna Firth and local writer and journalist Linden Kemkaran and was funded and supported by the Council and the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership. For information and how to get involved, e-mail community.safey@sevenoaks.gov.uk



Tackling Burglary in the District

A number of people have been arrested for separate burglary offences in just over a month as officers in West Kent continue to disrupt and deter criminals in the area.

Since mid-December 2017, officers have made arrests in an effort to prevent residents becoming victims of burglaries, with examples of enforcement including **Freddie Webb** of Worthing, West Sussex, was arrested on **Friday 29 December 2017** and charged with a burglary in **Sevenoaks**. He was remanded in custody and will appear at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday 18 June.

Four men from Sidcup and Dartford were arrested after a car was stolen from an address in **Hextable** on **Monday 18 December**. All four were bailed to return to the police station on Thursday 15 February.

Chief Inspector Tony Dyer, District Commander for Sevenoaks and Swanley, said:

'Our officers have been alert to the activities of local burglars and travelling criminals and have been patrolling at all hours to counter the threat they pose.'



'Uniformed officers have provided a visible deterrent on key roads and estates and investigators have ensured forensic and CCTV opportunities have been pursued where offences have been committed. Several suspected burglars, including a number who have travelled into the area to offend, have been apprehended and will face the courts.'

'Where suspects have been charged, our investigators have sought to remand them to prison to await their court case, where the grounds exist. However, we are not complacent and are determined to protect our communities from offenders as best we can in forthcoming weeks. We would ask residents to assist us by keeping doors and windows secure, keeping car keys away from the front door of the house overnight and alerting us on 101 or 999 if they see anybody acting suspiciously.'

There's still time to get involved in the Big Community Sing

Choirs, quartets, rock and acapella groups and glee clubs are invited to showcase their musical talents at the 'Big Community Sing' concert next summer.

This event takes place at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks on **Thursday 21 June** from 7pm. Singing groups can enter for free. Application forms are available by emailing communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk or calling 01732 227000. Successful applicants will be notified by **Thursday 1 March 2018**.

Tickets to watch the Big Community Sing cost £5 with the funds being used to support local mental health services. Tickets go on sale from 1 April 2018 at the Stag Box Office.

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