



# LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CELEBRATE SAFELY COMPETITION WINNERS 2017 ANNOUNCED**

This year's Celebrate Safely competition winners were crowned at a special awards ceremony at Warning Zone on Saturday 25 November.

The Celebrate Safely campaign, which is run jointly between Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Leicestershire Police, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and a number of district and borough councils, runs from the beginning of September all the way through to the New Year to try and keep our communities safe through the period of celebration.

As we do each year, a competition was set up for school children in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. The pupils were asked to come up with ideas for how they would celebrate safely during the festive periods – this year's main focus being Bonfire Night and fireworks. This idea then had to be designed, hand drawn or painted, and submitted for consideration.

We received a large number of entries which were all seen as worthy winners but, these needed to be narrowed down to just two! A panel of judges featuring Wayne Gale (Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service), Daxa Pancholi (Leicester City Council) and Chief Inspector Jed Keen (Leicestershire Police) had the difficult task of picking the two winning entries. These were:

- Year 2 winner - Vanessa Balcare from St Marys Field Primary School
- Year 6 winner - Meet Bokhiria from Rowlatts Hill Primary School

We would like to congratulate the two winners for the fantastic submissions – your ideas were brilliant. We would also like to thank all the school children who entered because without you all, it wouldn't have been such a creative competition.

Wayne Gale, Station Manager at Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The Celebrate Safely campaign competition has been running for a

number of years now and we always have a large number of entries to the competition which are all worthy of winning."

"Each year, the decision gets harder and harder to choose the winners. We are just happy that we are able to get the children thinking about staying safe during the festive period from an early age, as these periods are seen as the times of the year where people are at more risk – education is a key part of our prevention work."

Councillor Ivan Ould, Cabinet member for community safety at Leicestershire County Council, said: "The competition received a large number of entries which were all seen as worthy winners but, these needed to be narrowed down to just two.

"We would like to congratulate the two winners for the fantastic submissions – your ideas were brilliant. We would also like to thank all the school children who entered because without you all, it wouldn't have been such a creative competition."

For more in depth information on Celebrate Safely, visit [www.celebratesafely.com](http://www.celebratesafely.com).

## ENDS

**Notes to editors:** A selection of images and videos from the competitions prize giving ceremony are available on request from the Corporate Communications team. The winning drawings and children can be seen from downloading the below:

Year 2 winner- Vanessa Balcare from St Marys Field Primary School  
Year 6 winner - Meet Bokhiria from Rowlatts Hill Primary School

Picture of the winners, alongside their drawings

### **About the Service**

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service provides emergency response, prevention and protection services from 20 stations across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Its headquarters is based in Birstall, Leicester.

The Service's prevention, education, enforcement and inspection programmes have resulted in significant reductions in the number of incidents. In the last ten years, fire related incidents have reduced by 46 percent.

During 2015/16, the Service attended 666 road traffic collisions, of which 174 were extrications freeing 208 people trapped inside their vehicles and completed 5086 home fire safety checks, fitting almost 4481 smoke alarms. Staff organised or supported almost 1431 events aimed at promoting fire and road safety and arson prevention, whilst also visiting 332 schools to deliver fire and road safety education to pupils.

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