

INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA TO ATTEND A GASP ASSEMBLY TO CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROHIBITION OF SMOKING IN CARS WHEN CHILDREN ARE PASSENGERS

Assembly to be held at Vale Junior School on Friday 15th May at 2.15pm

Question: How many balloons does it take to fill up a Smart car?

Answer: Vale Junior School pupils will let you know at their Smokefree Cars Assembly on Friday 15th May 2009.

As part of GASP's campaign to ban smoking in cars where children are passengers, Vale Junior pupils will be trying out a very simple experiment. They will be asked to find out how many balloons can be fitted into Deputy Carol Steer's smart car.

The winners will then receive a very special prize – A Guernsey Bus all to themselves and their friends for three hours!

GASP's Chairperson Alun Williams explains the thinking behind the Assembly:

'At GASP we are dealing with a deadly serious issue. No one should underestimate the impact of smoking on people's lives but we have always tried to get across our message in a fun, informative manner.

This Assembly will make young people aware of how much smoke circulates in a car and the dangers that exist if people smoke when children are passengers in cars.

Children can spend many hours in cars each week and evidence from Australia, Canada, Germany and USA has all indicated that second hand smoke in a vehicle can be 20 times more harmful than in a house. Cars are contained spaces with low ceilings, and toxic air particles, including carbon monoxide, are concentrated at the head height of children.

This Assembly will help us to remind everyone not to smoke in cars when children are passengers.'

Deputy Geoff Mahy is the Political Patron of GASP and he is hoping that the States will support GASP's call for legislation:

'The States of Guernsey can boast a proud record in supporting a tobacco-free strategy. It was a courageous act to introduce the legislation that banned smoking in public places. This audacity and vision has meant that bodies such as GASP can carry forward its smokefree message. Smoking in cars where children are passengers has been a particular area where we have consistently heard a call for action.'

All members of the media are invited to attend the assembly which will take place at Vale Junior School on Friday 15th May at 2.15pm.

Please contact Alun Williams on tel 710821 or Vidya Amey on 727899