



School Travel Plan News

Issue 2, Spring Term 2007



Ashby's Massive Walk to School

sets a new Guinness World Record

The world's biggest ever walking bus ran in Ashby de la Zouch on 4th October. This Walk to School Week event recorded that 1346 people were on board. The previous record of 1109 was set in October 2003 by schools in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Pupils from Ashby C of E, Ashby Hill Top, Willesley, Woodcote Primary Schools, Ivanhoe College and Manor House School were supported in this record breaking attempt by parents, carers and staff from the schools, along with representatives and working groups from Leicestershire County Council, Ashby Town Council, Leicestershire Constabulary and North West Leicestershire District Council.

Those who took part thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The event had wide coverage in the media as television, radio and the press attended.

Ashby C of E, Hill Top, Willesley, Woodcote Primary Schools and Ivanhoe College encourage pupils to walk to school every day through the Walking Bus and the Star Walker Schemes that were introduced, along with other initiatives, as part of their School Travel Plans.



Stop Press For Maintained Primary Schools

The Government has announced new funding for Walking Buses and Sustainable Travel Initiatives

URGENT ACTION NEEDED – Closing Date for Applications is 31 January 2007.

The 'deal' is that the 3 year funding leads to car trips being saved. Schools need to have a reasonable expectation that an average of an extra 5 return car trips a day will be saved by setting up a Walking Bus and then complete a simple one page application form.

For further information apply to:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_susttravel/documents/divisionhomepage/613661.hcsp.

or contact travelawareness@leics.gov.uk for advice.



OR



Child Pedestrian Training

The **First Steps child pedestrian training scheme** is organised by the Road Safety and Travel Awareness Team. In a practical way, it aims to prepare Reception and KS1 children for future independence as pedestrians by improving their knowledge and understanding of road conditions.

Training begins in the classroom, where a Road Safety Tutor will conduct a short training session with volunteers such as parents, governors, learning support staff, lunchtime supervisors and others known to the school. Before any practical training can take place the Road Safety Tutor in charge of the First Steps Scheme conducts a classroom session with the children. Outside the school, the Road Safety Tutor and volunteers will each be in charge of two children. Children must hold hands with an adult at all times. The activity will be under the constant supervision of the Road Safety Tutor.



Pupils from Oakthorpe Primary School taking part in First Steps pedestrian training

Outside the school gates, pupils start by looking at the pavement and the road and discussing with their trainer where they think it is safe and where it is dangerous. They will then progress to finding a safe place to cross and to crossing the road safely with their trainer.

The First Steps scheme is offered particularly to Star Walker and School Travel Plan schools and, where resources permit, it is also available free of charge to all other schools. For more details please contact: Karen Bevans on **0116 265 7230** or email kbevans@leics.gov.uk

The Road Safety Tutors

Leicestershire's team of Road Safety Tutors delivers cyclist and pedestrian training to pupils throughout the county.

Where a school has adopted an approved School Travel Plan, the charge for cyclist training is fixed at £10 per pupil. During this academic year, schools without a Travel Plan will be charged £15 per pupil and from September 2007 this charge is to be increased to £20. For more information contact Marian Mugglestone on **0116 265 7231** or email mmugglestone@leics.gov.uk.

First Steps, pedestrian training, is offered free of charge to all schools. For more information contact Karen Bevans on **0116 265 7230** or email kbevans@leics.gov.uk.



Meet the team...

School Travel is Part of the School Census

The Government is encouraging schools to collect school travel data through the school census so that the effectiveness of measures implemented to increase walking or cycling on the school journey can be monitored. The data can also be used in a wide variety of curriculum work and to assist with Healthy School and Eco School accreditation. This data collection is compulsory for all STP schools.

Leicestershire County Council can use the data to help reduce congestion and in the development of its Local Transport Plan. The information will also help prioritise future funding for the 'Routes to School' programme that focuses on schemes identified through the School Travel Plan process, including vehicle speed reduction around school and footway and crossing improvements.

Please contact Richard Gretton, Statistics Manager, on 0116 2656638 or rgretton@leics.gov.uk for advice on collecting data for the school census.

Car Story – The School Travel and Road Safety Play – by Michael Wicherek

Over 1200 pupils have been reminded about the benefits of sustainable transport, environmental awareness and road and personal safety during performances of 'Car Story'; a contemporary theatre production delivered direct to schools. At each interactive performance the information young road users were given included:

- Sustainable transport and alternative modes of travel: including walking, cycling and public transport
- Using the Green Cross Code: **STOP : LOOK : LISTEN = LIVE**
- Crossing the road at the safest possible place; zebra, pelican and patrolled crossings
- **BE SAFE, BE SEEN:** Wearing safe and appropriate clothing

Archie from Orchard C of E Primary School said, "We thought your show was terrific, super, excellent, brilliant and exciting!"



The cast of Car Story produced by Box Clever www.boxclevertheatre.com

Star Walker Schools are Awarded Certificates of Appreciation

Star Walkers from Brocks Hill Primary School, Oadby and from Cosby Primary School were joined in their school journey by Barry Garner, Chairman of Leicestershire County Council. He visited both schools in October and presented each with a Certificate of Appreciation for its commitment to the Star Walker Scheme.

Since adopting their School Travel Plans both schools have significantly increased the number of pupils who walk to school.

The Star Walker Scheme rewards pupils at regular intervals for choosing to walk at least part of the journey to and from school. Pupils enjoy collecting their badges, stationery, reflective wear and mugs. Seventeen County schools are now taking part, with more joining in the Spring Term.

Teachers say that Star Walkers are more alert and ready to work when they arrive, are less likely to be late as journeys are easier to time and the initiative is helping to raise pupils' awareness of road safety.

The Star Walker Scheme is offered free of charge for 2 years to schools that have adopted an approved Travel Plan. The Government funding could provide assistance for 3 years at £500 per year. For more details contact travelawareness@leics.gov.uk or phone 0116 265 7178.



Cosby Primary School



Brocks Hill Primary School

Walking Bus Social Evening

Organisers of Walking Buses enjoyed an informal social evening at County Hall in October. Recruitment, best practice and support from the Road Safety and Travel Awareness Team were explored in open and relaxed discussions.

One common problem identified was managing pupils' hand luggage. Light weight, bright rucksacks, for wearing on top of the high visibility jackets provided by the Council, are now available to Walking Bus Co-ordinators, at a charge £9 each (VAT included).

Lorraine Lloyd, Co-ordinator of the Walking Bus at Newcroft Primary School reports,

"The rucksacks are very popular with the children. They now carry all their own belongings, which makes life easier for the volunteers. The rucksack has a large pocket on the front which is useful for the children to put their reflective jacket in when they get to school. This has cut down on the number of occasions that children misplace their jacket and forget to take it home."

Sixteen schools have walking buses and operate 22 routes. Routes can operate every day, mornings only, return journeys or on specific mornings each week. The number of passengers on each route varies between 5 and 28.

For more details contact travelawareness@leics.gov.uk or phone 0116 265 7178.



The Walking Bus at Newcroft Primary School

The Newbold C of E Primary School Walking Bus Rap

Walking buses are so cool
We are on our way to school.
Michelle and Tracey take us there,
Safely down to school with Clare.
Nicola will help us too.
We'll walk in partners, two by two.
Walk with us, we won't be late.
Come rain or shine to the school gate.

Did you know...

that the child car seat law has changed?

The revised child car seat law came into force on 18 September 2006. It is estimated that the introduction of the new law could save 2,000 children per year from death or injury in Britain.

The revisions have tightened up various aspects of the previous legislation. All children under 12 **MUST** now use an appropriate restraint unless they are over 135cm in height (4ft 5in). The Department for Transport recommends that children should continue using booster cushions or booster seats until they are 150cm (4ft 11in) tall. As well as being safer, many children find sitting a bit higher also makes for a more comfortable and enjoyable journey and benefit from a better view out of the windows which often results in less travel sickness.



Further detail on the law along with a list of frequently asked questions can be found at www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk

Links to manufacturers and suppliers can be found at www.childcarseats.org.uk

	Front Seat	Rear Seat	Who is Responsible?
Driver	Seat belt must be worn if fitted		Driver
Child under 3 years of age	Correct child restraint must be used	Correct child restraint must be used. If one is not available in a taxi, may travel unrestrained.	Driver
Child from 3rd birthday up to 135cm in height (or 12th birthday, whichever they reach first)	Correct child restraint must be used	Correct child restraints must be used where seat belts fitted. Must use adult belt in a rear seat if correct child restraint not available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● in a taxi; ● for a short distance in an unexpected necessity; ● if two occupied child restraints prevent fitting a third. 	Driver
Child 12 or 13, or over 135cm in height	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Driver
Adult passengers & children aged 14+	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Passenger

Spring Term Events

Completing a School Travel Plan This Year?

Schedule:

- 5 February 2007 Last date for submitting draft STP for comments to STP Co-ordinators
- 31 March 2007 STP Co-ordinators submit completed, approved, signed off STPs to Regional School Travel Advisors (RSTA) for Quality Assurance
- 31 May 2007 RSTA forward grant claim forms to DfES for STPs that meet the required standard
- July 2007 Devolved Formula Capital Grants payments (excl VA schools) made to LEAs via the Standards Fund.

The School Travel Plan Co-ordinators have been impressed by the quality of many of the draft STPs they have received. If you wish to capitalise on the time and effort you have invested in your STP please ensure that the final draft is with them by 5th February.

Contact details for the STP Co-ordinators are at the foot of this page.

Opportunity for Junior Road Safety Officers and Star Walker Champions

On Saturday, 10th March 2007, at Brocks Hill Primary School, there will be a one day event for Junior Road Safety Officers and Star Walker Champions.

Several workshops will take place that will focus on various aspects of road safety education including the Star Walker Scheme, a school travel plan initiative that encourages pupils to walk to school.

Invitations will be sent in the New Year to schools that have an approved school travel plan. If you have any questions about the planned event please contact:

Lorraine Harris, JRSO Scheme Co-ordinator 0116 265 7229 or Lyn Rowe, School Travel Plan Officer 0116 241 9590

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Find out more about School Travel Plans at: www.leics.gov.uk/school_travel_plans