

Primary Footprints

School Travel Plan Newsletter

Autumn Term 2015

A regular publication containing news and information

Welcome to our Autumn term newsletter. We have had a very busy term with International Walk to School Month, the Junior Road Safety Officer Fun Day and our Annual School Travel Conference, where we presented plaques to those who received their first STARS accreditation, or progressed from one level to another. Becca Dengler and I also attended the Modeshift National Conference, where Bucks Fire and Rescue won an award for their work on a project to improve safety and behaviour on buses.

Almost 140 JRSOs attended the Fun Day where they took part in workshops to learn how to undertake this important role at their school. The Helpers also picked up some new ideas for campaigns and initiatives they can organise to encourage active, safe and sustainable travel for the school journey.

At the School Travel Conference STP Co-ordinator's heard about community projects that have been developed and organised by and for schools. They worked together to develop specific projects, that they could work on locally, whether this was other schools or community groups. Some of these included promoting speed reduction and perfect parking near school; liaise with local supermarkets, involve community more, use a child size mannequin to raise awareness among the parents. The presentations are available to view and download from our website www.schooltravelplanning.com/Schools/Keeping-it-Going/Conference

Our suggestion to you this term is to plan a Santa Stroll, Winter Walk or March in March, to encourage walking during the inclement weather. We've produced some posters that you can download and print to advertise your events and initiatives. We hope you find them useful.

Nicky Batkin, Transport Strategy Officer

What is inside this issue?

- Awards, Awards, Awards!
- Wycombe Sound—radio interviews
- Posters to download

Contact us



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Dates for your diary

STP Co-ordinator Meetings

- 3rd February, High Wycombe
- 4th February, Aylesbury
- 10th May, Aylesbury
- 12th May, High Wycombe

Footsteps Tutor Training

- 8th Feb, Haddenham St Mary's Infant
- 11th Feb, Overstone School
- 24th Feb, Roundwood School



Awards, Awards, Awards!

National Recognition for sustainable travel work in Bucks

In 2015, 347 schools achieved STARS accreditation, 80 of these were in Bucks ! This means that 23% of all school accredited this year, across the whole country, were from Buckinghamshire!

This is a fantastic achievement for all who are involved in promoting and encouraging active, safe and sustainable travel. Well done !

Modeshift STARS Regional Awards



This October, during International Walk to School Month, schools from across the country were recognised as pillars of excellence for their efforts to promote more walking and cycling to school.

STARS Regional Awards events took place across the country where schools were recognised and rewarded for their commitment to the scheme. Awards were distributed to schools of excellence in promoting walking and cycling and other forms of sustainable transport.

This included 2 Buckinghamshire schools who were presented with trophies for their fantastic work to encourage active, safe and sustainable travel.

STARS Award for Promoting Walking

The Downley School

The travel plan lapsed in 2010 and the school did not continue to encourage active, safe or sustainable travel. Nicole joined the school as a member of staff a few years ago and has worked slowly and enthusiastically to set up some very successful initiatives. She organised a number of walking



events to encourage walking throughout the year, not just for the 'national' campaigns. And she has managed to recruit a 'team' of parent volunteers to help with stamping of walk to school passports.

The school encouraged more families to walk to school by organising whole school events and engaging with staff to encourage them to promote walking and join events.

The topography of the area means that many families will





choose to drive rather than walk up the steep hills. However, they managed to increase walking from 49% in 2013 to 54% in 2014, and further increases will be made this year. This included working with SEN students to encourage them to walk to school, at least part of the way.

They undertook extensive promotion of the initiatives and campaigns, and engagement with pupils has ensured the success of STARS at The Downley School.

STARS Award for Promoting Road Safety Stoke Mandeville Combined School

The STP Co-ordinator, Emma James, engaged the whole school in road safety awareness training. She identified the need for road safety training prior to the building of a local supermarket. Not only to raise awareness of the large vehicles that would be used for construction, but also the increase in traffic once the store opened.



The whole school were involved in Truck demonstrations, ensuring that every child was made more aware of the dangers. Reception, Year 1 and 2 took part in the child road safety programme with Gist Ltd and Years 3 to 6 with DHL. This helped to improve children's awareness of the dangers of being near to trucks and large vehicles.

Emma recruited parent volunteers as pedestrian skills tutors to ensure the Footsteps programme can continue. This also helps to encourage parents to be more aware of road safety and the skills children need to be safe pedestrians.

Mrs Eileen Stewart, Head teacher, said "The very important message around Road Safety has never been more relevant for our children than currently. We are all incredibly proud of all the hard work our whole school community have undertaken to achieve this National Accolade for Road Safety. A special "Thank you" goes in particular to Mrs James who successfully co-ordinates all this work. Our Trophy will be taking pride of place in our school."



A fantastic Team contribution to sustainable travel

Bucks Fire and Rescue, in partnership with Amey, won a **National Sustainable Travel Award** at the Modeshift Annual Convention, for their brilliant project *addressing safety on the school bus journey*.

A team of Officers from Bucks Fire and Rescue developed the programme to provide pupils with information on the dangers of distraction, general road safety & the consequences of inappropriate behaviour whilst travelling to school by bus.



Travelling to work, Watch Commander Steve Cook, noticed 3 buses leaving The Cottesloe School, all going to the same location. The 1st and 2nd buses were completely full, with many students standing obscuring the drivers view. The 3rd was fairly empty. He considered this overcrowding to be a major safety issue.



Part of BFR Corporate Plan states that each Watch must address issues highlighted within their communities. They have a Role Map that lists the issues & how they will be addressed. Bus safety on the school journey was identified as an issue that Fire & Rescue could help to address.

Steve worked with Alison Still, BFR Community Safety Manager and a number of firefighters to develop a presentation that would achieve the desired outcome.

They spoke to students & drivers from bus and coach companies, to find out their views; took photos of different bus features to include in the presentation & initiate discussions on safety; developed a "Top 10 do's & don'ts" and designed a leaflet to support the initiative. They also produced a presentation to address issues such as standing, obstructing drivers view; bags in aisles; hierarchy; bullying; lack of awareness of safety issues and pedestrian safety at end of journey.



This was piloted at 2 schools to test the delivery & impact of the scheme. In consultation with various stakeholders & students, the final initiative has been offered to all secondary schools. The presentation is delivered by firefighters to years 7, 8 & 9. It covers the dangers involved with travel to & from school including travelling on buses & what could potentially happen as a result of inappropriate action.

To reinforce the message & to take the 'classroom element' to the potential risk environment, the fire crews joined students as they boarded the buses, observing & giving feedback/prompts when minds are often on other matters.



The ultimate aim is for pupils to fully understand the wider consequences of inappropriate and unsafe behavior, in that it increases the risk of an accident & potential injury for the individual & community as a whole.

Have you organised your Santa Stroll, Winter Walk or March in March?

Just because it's a bit cold, or a bit damp, or it's sometimes raining, doesn't mean that the children can't walk, scoot or cycle to school. You could encourage them to continue to travel actively and sustainably during the Autumn and Winter months by organizing an event or campaign to inspire and motivate them.

This could be wearing Christmas hats for a Santa Stroll, or donning wellies, scarves and hats for a Winter Walk. You could also plan a 'March in March' for the whole month, with the incentive of house points or an extra play time for those that take part.

Whatever you do, make sure you involve the children. And make sure they all have lots of fun!



Children make a song and dance about road safety in Herts

Parents and children from Hertfordshire schools have got together to film a light-hearted video on their concerns about road safety.

The 'Don't be a Road Monster' film is aimed at adults who drive their children to school to encourage them to drive and park responsibly, ensuring the safety of children entering and leaving school sites.

[Click here](#) to watch the film.



92 children from Hertfordshire schools appear in the film which was written and produced by students from Ashlyns Secondary School in Berkhamsted supported by parent volunteers, many of whom are professionals in the film and TV industry. The film has been supported and funded by Hertfordshire County Council. Terry Douris, Cabinet Member for Highways,

The film will be used as part of the 'Don't be a Road Monster' campaign which involves representatives from Hertfordshire County Council, in partnership with Hertfordshire Constabulary, Fire and Rescue and the district councils, visiting schools to talk to school-run drivers about the dangers of illegal and inconsiderate parking and driving manoeuvres in the roads around the school site.

Parents, teachers and children discuss the road safety issues and the making of the Road Monster video in a supporting film which can be watched [here](#).



Talking about Walking, on the Radio!

Our Living Streets' colleague, Alison Derrick, will be co-hosting some shows on Wycombe Sound during the month before Christmas. As part of this she will be talking about the "Work To.." projects she and Beth Metcalf are running in Buckinghamshire; chatting to a School Crossing Patroller about his experiences and interviewing Junior Road Safety Officers about the important work that they do to support safe and sustainable school travel. Listen out for the show between 1 and 4pm on 19th, 26th November and 3rd and 10th December.

You'll find Wycombe Sound on 87.9FM



Download our new posters to support your initiatives

We've produced a range of posters to support your initiatives, campaigns and events. You can download these and print them as A4 or A3 sized posters. Some have space for you to write the date of your event, or any other details you may wish to add. They can be laminated if you need to display them outside.

There are 8 posters that can be downloaded from our website, under ***Schools*** and ***Initiatives***

Let's be active, let's be safe, let's be sustainable	⇒	<i>Curriculum Resources</i>
Be bright, be seen	⇒	<i>Road Safety Lesson Plans</i>
March in March	⇒	<i>Walk to School</i>
Scooter Skills Challenge	⇒	<i>Scooter Skills</i>
Bling your Bike	⇒	<i>Cycling</i>
It's our walk to school week	⇒	<i>Walk to School Week</i>
Join our Enormous Crocodile	⇒	<i>Walking Crocodiles</i>
Join our Santa Stroll	⇒	<i>Walk to School</i>

We hope you like them and find them useful. Why not start with the Santa Stroll? Or plan your March in March!



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