



Welcome to The Travel Plan Coordinator's Newsletter

Website: www.schooltravelplanning.com

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Welcome

Welcome to the Summer '22 Edition of the Travel Plan Coordinator's Newsletter

I hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday.

How children travel to and from school is more important than ever; we all know the benefits of walking and being outside for our own wellbeing and mental health.

We are encouraging children and parents to think about the way they travel to and from school, reminding them about safety as well thinking about the benefits to the environment and their mental health. Please encourage everyone to walk, cycle, scoot, or park further away from school, and then walk instead of driving all the way to school. There is a great free map on the Modeshift STARS system. You can create your own Walking Bubble Maps specifically for your school, and perhaps launch it ready for the start of Walk to School Week starting on 16th May. There is more about this event later in the Newsletter.

If park and stride, walking, cycling, and scooting are not options for your parents and carers try to remind parents and carers to park considerably. Why not set up the Parent's Parking Promise? This encourages good parking around the school.

Following the list of forthcoming dates, I will introduce school travel planning, why we have School Travel Plans, Modeshift Stars and its accreditation process, examples of initiatives and school events from last term, and finally some news from our partners.

Key Dates for Your Diary

Here is a list of relevant events taking place this term, which you may want to promote in your school. Please follow the links as many of these initiatives offer free downloadable resources for schools.

May

Walk to School Week - 16th to 20th May 2022

Walk to School Week | Living Streets [Walk to School Week | Living Streets](#)

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/happyschoesday>

June

Bike Week 6-12 June [Cycling UK Bike Week](#)

Anti-idling Day/Clean Air Day [Action for clean air | Schools](#)

Clean Air Day - the UK's largest clean air campaign

Brake's Kids Walk [Brake's Kids Walk | Brake](#)

July

Transition Year 7 [Walk to School | Secondary Schools | Living Streets](#)

Modeshift STARS Deadline Accreditation 31st July 2022 [Login - Modeshift STARS](#)

School Travel Planning

The main aim of a School Travel Plan (STP) is to reduce single occupancy car use on the school journey. Increasing sustainable travel helps to reduce congestion and pollution, as well as improving the health and fitness of children and young people and helping to give your children the very important life skills they need to stay safe and healthy on their journey to and from school. These are just a few of the many benefits of an active STP.

For those of you new to school travel planning, STPs are developed, maintained, and monitored by the whole school community, to promote and facilitate sustainable travel. STPs are a great example of partnership working by Ofsted. All schools should promote active, safe, and sustainable travel as an alternative to single occupancy car use for the school journey. An STP is developed and monitored by the school to:

- discover actual and preferred mode of travel for the school journey.
- identify issues to determine why people do not travel sustainably.
- set future targets to achieve or maintain modes of sustainable travel (for example to increase cycling; to maintain walking)
- lay out a plan of action for the tasks/initiatives that the school will carry out to achieve their targets and aspirations.
- encourage the whole school community to travel in a safer, healthier, and more sustainable way.

In Buckinghamshire we use Modeshift STARS to help us and you to develop and monitor our

STPs. Please email schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk to find out if your school has a Travel Plan. There is some great information on our website <https://schooltravelplanning.com/>

What is Modeshift Stars?

Modeshift STARS (Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition for Schools) provides a framework for the implementation of sustainable and active school travel activities. It is an online system that helps schools to input the information they need to produce a nationally recognised STP.

Established in 2007, Modeshift is a national membership organisation that specialises in sustainable and active travel and provides behaviour change support for those working with children, young people, families, school communities, educational establishments, and workplaces. It is a national schools' awards scheme that has been established to recognise schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable transport.

To register on the system please go to the website <https://www.modeshiftstars.org/> and request a login. Please check with your Headteacher or School Office that they don't already have one. If you are already using Modeshift, please keep your school details up to date (children and staff numbers) and include your Headteacher's information too. Also, if you have been working with me can you please add me to your introduction tab under working with the local authority. If you need to delete a user, please let me know by email. Please keep all contacts and email addresses up to date.

Accreditation

The Modeshift STARS national accreditation scheme offers 5 levels: Green, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. The more initiatives school organise, the higher accreditation they will be able to achieve. The initiatives are split into two categories, Sustainable Travel (ST) and Supporting Initiatives (SI).

Sustainable Travel (ST) focuses on topics such as cycling (C), walking and scooting (W), road safety & training (T), air quality (AQ), public transport (PT). Supporting Initiatives (SI) focus on promotion (PR), curriculum (CU), and partnerships (P).

This year I would like to congratulate all the 63 schools in Bucks that in a very difficult year still managed to get accredited for their School Travel Plan. For those schools that were so close, please don't give up. You are doing amazing work to keep our children safe. Modeshift now accreditate 3 times a year on 31 March, 31 July, and 31 December. If you didn't get accredited this time round, please let me know if you need help with your submission for July.

If you have the option to apply for more than one level of accreditation, please only submit the highest and remember to check your expiry date on the Accreditation progress tab first. You all work so hard every day to give your children the important life skills they need to keep healthy and safe.

Please remember to add evidence of anything you do, as well as ensure any working groups are included in the introduction tab. There's no need to include children's names, simply JRSO/Eco Representative for example, is fine.

If you are still to do your surveys for 2021/22 before doing this, make sure your staff and pupil numbers are up to date, this can be found under the 'Introduction' tab. Modeshift have added a new tab which is to do with your school's aims and objectives, and what you will do to embed the STP in your school community. If you haven't already had a look, log-on and see what you have on your STP: <https://www.modeshiftstars.org/login/> This is a living document, and you will need to keep this up to date each school year. You can download your STP as a PDF file and add this to your website or include it in your new prospectus.

Announcements

School Travel Plan Coordinator Meetings (Consultations LA1)

If you would like a virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams let me know. This seems to be convenient for schools as there is no traveling time and can take place in PPA time. We can look at your STP and your school's needs. I will be giving you some more information about initiatives you can run at your school. How they link to your STP which will help you to get your school accredited. This will include some training on the Modeshift STARS system. You will need to be logged on to Modeshift and be on Microsoft Teams or a hands-free phone. This term I will also be arranging some group online meetings so schools can share ideas with each other, let me know if you are interested in this. Please get in touch by emailing me at Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

The National STARS School Travel Awards 2021/22 South East Region Winners Announced

We're delighted to announce that Thorp House School in Buckinghamshire has been named as the STARS South East Schools of the Region for 2021/22.

Thorp House School, Buckinghamshire Council, STARS South East Secondary School of the Region 2021/22

This is one of few schools in Buckinghamshire that have pupils from age 4 to 16, and the school does its best to include everyone of all ages in their STP. The fact that as a school they keep locals up to date and included in the work they are doing on their STP shows they think about not just the pupils, parents and staff. As a school they cover all aspects of what a School Travel

Plan should be, from road safety to the environment and linking this all with the health of their pupils.

The South East Region awards winners:

STARS Local Authority Secondary Schools of the Year 2021/22

- Buckinghamshire Council
 - Thorp House School

STARS Local Authority Primary Schools of the Year 2021/22

- Buckinghamshire Council
 - St Joseph's Catholic Infant School

STARS South East Secondary School of the Region 2021/22

- Buckinghamshire Council
 - Thorp House School

Mrs Lorna Robson (and the Travel Team) from St Joseph's Catholic Infant School said.

'We are delighted and very excited to be awarded a STARS Local Authority Primary School of the Year 2021/22 - fantastic news! It is great to get the recognition as we have put so much work and effort into encouraging and promoting active travel at our school, and particularly on Modeshift STARS since 2015. Thank you for your continued support.'



The Big Walk and Wheel 2022

Well done to all of you that took part in The Big Walk and Wheel (previously called the Big Pedal). We had some great results in Buckinghamshire. The results are categorised into small and large Primary schools. There were 118 small primary schools and 178 large primary schools which took part and the results are as follows:

In the category of small Primary schools we achieved 62nd, 69th, 71st and 82nd places.

Well done to these small Primary schools:

- Steeple Claydon who had 55.53% of the school take part and were placed 62nd.
- St Joseph's Catholic infants who had 52.34% of the school take part and came 69th
- Chesham Bois C of E who had 51.70% of the school take part and came 71st.
- Long Crendon who had 45.24% of the school take part and came 82nd.

In the category of large Primary schools, we had an amazing 1st place! A massive well done Bierton Combined School.

- Bierton Combined who had an amazing 98.19% of the school take part and came 1st.
- Turnfurlong Junior who had 63.39% of the school take part and came 65th.
- St Louis Catholic Primary who had 54.38% of the school take part and came 101st

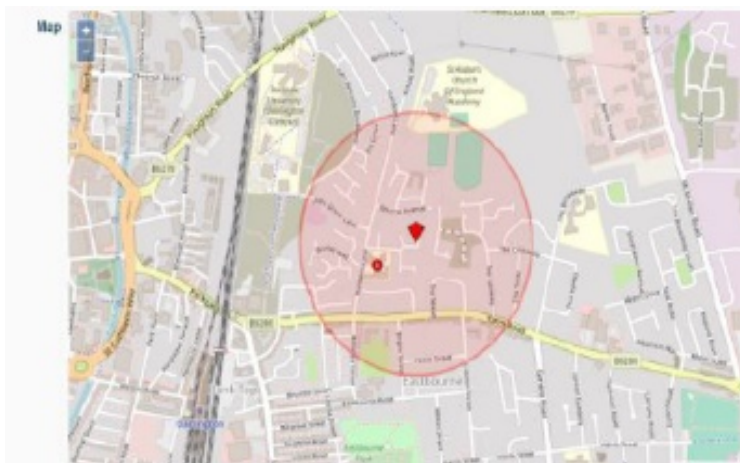
Well done to all the schools that took part in the [Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2022](#). [Please remember to](#) add this to your STP [Login - Modeshift STARS](#) under C5. It may also tick off other initiatives. For example if you held an assembly relating to the Big Walk and Wheel you can achieve PR9. You may have sent a letter out about this to parents, which fulfils PR1. If your JRSOs added this information to the website, then this will fulfil P4 and PR20. If you discussed the Big Walk and Wheel in a staff meeting, this would achieve SM2.

Examples of Initiatives

Modeshift Walking Bubble Maps

(Walking & Scooting - Travel W8; Promotions - PR7, 9, 17, Consultations - SM1)

Walking, cycling, or scooting to school is the best way to reduce congestion and pollution, while improving the mental and physical wellbeing of pupils. That's why Modeshift launched the Walking Bubble Maps, to encourage everyone who can to 'Get Active' on their journeys to and from school.



Walking Bubbles encourage families that must travel by car to park at least five minutes away from school, creating a safer space for walking, cycling, or scooting to the school. By encouraging park and stride/ride we also reduce the number of cars manoeuvring and parking outside and close to the school gates, which is one of the main concerns parents have when walking to

school. Reducing vehicles and creating more space around schools will also make it much easier for families to socially distance and feel safer. It's easy for schools that are registered with STARS to create their Walking Bubble map. Simply follow the steps below:

- Login
- Click on the 'Perform Process' button and select 'Generate Walking Bubble'
- Ensure your map is centred on your school (if not follow the on-screen instructions)
- Select 'Save'

Your Walking Bubble map will then be created, and you will receive an email with the PDF version of your map. You will also be able to download the map from the Walking Bubble tab. For more detailed instructions, please visit the 'Guidance' tab and download the 'How to generate your #StaySafeGetActive Walking Bubble Map' guide [#StaySafeGetActive Walking Bubbles - Modeshift STARS](#).

Parents' Parking Promise (Promotion - PR 13, 16, 17, Air Quality-Travel AQ 8)

Parents' Parking Promise was developed to encourage parents and guardians to think about how they are parking around the school including ensuring there is enough room for emergency vehicles to pass.

They sign a pledge to promise to park responsibly. The initiative works well in schools where there are problems with parents and guardians parking inconsiderately and dangerously.

How does the initiative work?

Parents are asked to sign a 'promise' to say that they will park responsibly around the school. The promise is returned to the school (usually someone in the school office) who will issue the parent a car sticker to show they have signed the promise. The sticker acts as a reminder to the parents that they should be parking responsibly near the school and as a reminder to others to do the same.

We can provide the schools with the following:

A sample Parents' Parking Promise document - This document can be adapted to suit the specific needs of the school, for example it could include road names or locations, and it could also include further information on related issues that the school would like to resolve.

Car stickers for parents or guardians who have signed the promise - These stickers should be displayed in the windscreens of those that have signed the promise to highlight to others that they have agreed to park considerately. For more information and order your stickers <https://schooltravelplanning.com/initiatives>

This is a picture of our new parking promise sticker:



Banners

(Promotion PR19)

We all remember the benefits of walking or cycling in lockdown. It helped us to keep fit, physically and mentally! We are encouraging everyone to walk, cycle, scoot or park and walk to school instead of drive on the journey to school and have designed some new banners to promote this.

If you want to borrow one of the banners to display at your school, please email schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk with your school's name, address, and School Travel Plan Coordinator's name. We do have limited numbers and banners will need to be returned to us after 4 weeks so they can be available for other schools to use. If you have borrowed one, please can you move it around the school site, so it doesn't become blind to passers-by. Alternatively please return it in your school's green bag, remembering to include your school's name, address and School Travel Plan Coordinator's name so we know where it has come from.



Primary School Banner



Secondary School Banner

Unfortunately, we have had some very inconsiderate parking around our schools, so we are also highlighting the dangers of parking unsafely around the school gates and encouraging parents or guardians to park carefully and considerately (should they need to bring a car to school) but even better, to park safely away from the school gates and walk the last section of the journey. Why not borrow one of our parking banners, and along with the parking promise stickers run your own parking campaign?



Considerate Parking Banner

Child Pedestrian Training (Road Safety & Training - Travel R5)

There is some useful road safety information on the following sites.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/teenage-road-safety>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/be-safe-pedestrian>

By walking regularly, children can build exercise into their daily routine to help achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many children in Buckinghamshire benefitted from *Footsteps Pedestrian Training* at school. Whilst we update our training following the pandemic, please note that Road Safety Wales has put together a new online package which covers three core skills:

Choosing the safe place to cross

Helping your child to recognise hazards and identify appropriate crossing places.

Crossing the road

Enabling your child to practise their crossing skills under supervision.

Crossing between parked cars

Teaching your child how to use a safe strategy for crossing near parked cars, when avoiding them is impossible.

Practice should begin on a quiet road and include discussions on the safest places to cross and the risk from traffic.

Try to include a variety of crossings, junctions and pavements with driveways and entrances where children need to look out for moving vehicles.

Learning pedestrian skills is a keystone of childhood road safety and regular practise at different locations will help to reinforce methods that can be used in any roadside scenario for years to come. Watch the short video:

roadsafetygb.org.uk/news/new-resource-to-support-child-pedestrian-training

Footsteps Pedestrian Training

Our new Buckinghamshire Council online Tutor Training is coming soon. All schools will be notified when link is available.



Bikeability Cycle Training (Road Safety & Training - Travel R1, Promotion-Supporting PR1, 3, 9)

Bikeability is today's cycle training programme. It's about gaining practical skills and understanding how to cycle on today's roads. Bikeability gives everyone the skills and confidence for all kinds of cycling. The following link is to a suite of tools to help your school maximise the impact of Bikeability for all: [Bikeability | Professional cycle training | Tools for Schools](#)

Schools are invited to apply for Bikeability Cycle funding for any training that is due to take place during the Autumn 2022 term.

The funding window opens week beginning the 1st May 2022 and closes on Wednesday 18th May 2022.

All schools will be sent an email which will include the link to the Bikeability funding application form. Full Bikeability terms and conditions can be seen at the following link: - <https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/travel-and-transport/school-travel-planning/cycle-training-for-schools/>

Please contact Georgina Longley at Georgina.longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

School Crossing Patrollers

School Crossing Patrollers have an important role within the community helping children and their parents/carers to cross busy roads on their journeys to and from school. Buckinghamshire's 60 School Crossing Patrollers are out in all weathers, twice a day cheerfully helping school children and adults across roads to and from their local schools. For more information please contact the School Travel Planning Team.

School Travel Planning Contacts

Emma James — Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
School Travel Planning Advisor

Corinne Randall— Corinne.Randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Footsteps Training and School Crossing Patroller Supervisor - Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe (West) areas.

Georgina Longley— Georgina.Longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Bikeability Training and School Crossing Patroller Supervisor - Chiltern & South Bucks & Wycombe (East) areas.

You may also find information on our website useful www.schooltravelplanning.com or you can email schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Partner News

The following pages provide some additional information from some of our partners relating to school travel. This includes Bucks Radio, Road Safety GB, Aylesbury Garden Town, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Living Streets and Active Communities.



Promote your School Travel Plan (Promotion- Supporting PR3)

Don't forget if you are doing anything in your school and want to get noticed in Bucks you can promote your School Travel Plan to Bucks through [Bucks Radio](#)

Get in touch by emailing news@bucks.radio

Bucks Radio is the new sound of Buckinghamshire, aiming to bring local radio back to the county. Launched by local broadcasters Nathan Cooper and Richard Carr it went live in February 2021. We've been overwhelmed by the support we've received so far and are looking forward to becoming a part of Bucks life. Between them, our team have been working, and broadcasting, in the area for over 40 years, so we understand what matters to you.

Right now, we're broadcasting online, via smart speakers and app, meaning you can take us with you wherever you go. We have the latest news, weather, and travel, and loads of community information, including our free What's on Guide and features like Charity Friday.

We are especially keen to report on and promote any events and activities or positive news stories from schools across Buckinghamshire – and visit when we are able! For more details check out our website: www.bucks.radio



Safe Drive Stay Alive to return to theatres in November 2022.

There will be a welcome return to the live Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) shows in November 2022. For more information on SDSA, visit safedrive.org.uk

The dates have been confirmed and the booking site will be open for booking soon after the Easter break. There will be two performances each day at 10.30am and 1.00pm. Each performance last approximately 1 hour 10 minutes.

The website is currently undergoing a refresh and there may have been staff changes over the last 2 years of no SDSA, so some of our contacts may be out of date. If you would like me to e mail you as soon as the booking site opens, then please contact June Howlett: e mail: June.Howlett@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

SDSA Dates for your school calendar:

- November 7th 8th and 11th at The Swan, High Wycombe
- November 15th and 16th at The Ridgeway Centre, Milton Keynes
- November 28th, 29th and 30th at The Kings Centre, Oxford



Coombe Bikes

Work with Us

Are you a school based in Buckinghamshire? Are you looking to offer a safe and secure bicycle repair service for your budding youngsters?

We are now exclusively offering a chance to run 4-hour repair workshops, ensuring all children in the Buckinghamshire area are safely riding (or scooting!) to school. As safety is our top priority, we offer a full-on site workshop that works around you.

A 4 hour on site workshop costs £100. Simply bike to school, park up and we will do the rest.

What's included?

- Safety checks and minor repairs*
- Parts included (cables and inner tubes only, other parts extra)
- Expert knowledge and advice
- Thorough safety checks

We recommended up to 20 children's bicycles per 4-hour workshop to allow all bikes to be thoroughly examined and safety checked. *Please note should any further repair be required an advisory will be given on the day of workshop. Additional cost(s) may occur. For more information visit our website <https://www.coombebikes.co.uk/work-with-us>



Road Safety Officer - Hampshire Constabulary & Thames Valley Police Joint Operations Unit,
As spring is finally here and summer just around the corner the weather starts to improve there are more people riding bicycles taking to the road enjoying the fresh air, which is great. The new Highway Code gives emphasis on the hierarchy of road user. The bigger the vehicle the more responsibility they must take in ensuring vulnerable road users are given more space and awareness.

However, as a rider, you have very little protection around you, so we always recommend wearing a helmet, children as well as adults. Remember children copy what you do, so lead by example!



Top Tips for cyclists:

- Wear light-coloured or fluorescent clothing which helps other road users to see them in daylight and poor light. It is important to create a contrast with your surroundings.
- Wear reflective clothing and/or accessories in the dark.
- Wear a cycle helmet
- Be very careful if cycling up the left-hand side of slow-moving vehicles. It is better to wait or use the offside.
- Only ride two abreast on quiet roads and be prepared to go back to single file.
- Ride in single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends.

Top Tips for drivers

- Look properly and concentrate on the road
- Try to anticipate what other road users may do; cyclists may move out to avoid potholes or drains etc
- Drive appropriately for the conditions
- Give pedal cyclists lots of room when overtaking:
 - Give cyclists at least as much room as you would a car when overtaking, we recommend at least 1.5m clearance in slow moving traffic and at least 2m at higher speeds
 - Obey all traffic signals and road markings
 - Cyclists have priority at junctions and can go straight ahead, if turning left or right into a junction, you must give way to the person riding a bike.
 - Do not overtake cyclists near a junction, pedestrian crossing, on a roundabout or at a pinch point



Play Streets launches in Bucks

Buckinghamshire Council has launched a scheme called Play Streets – a chance to temporarily close small roads for a few hours, so that children can play and have fun safely outside on their doorstep and parents, neighbours and communities can come together and connect! If you'd like to find out more about how to apply to hold a Play Streets session where you live, go to

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/organise-a-play-streets-session/> or take a look at the national website www.playingout.net



Hazard Alley

Choices And Consequences: Early Knife Crime Intervention.



Let's start the conversation early.

The education team at The Safety Centre (Hazard Alley), is currently delivering an early intervention session, which tackles the difficult subject of knife crime. It was developed following a request from the Thames Valley Police, to address the rise in knife crime amongst young people in the area and has been endorsed by themselves and MK Council.

As the region's leading safety education charity, we strongly believe that early intervention is the key to empowering young people to make the right choices in life. As a result, we have developed a session for years 5 and 6 called 'Choices and Consequences: Early Knife Crime Intervention', which covers this challenging theme.

It explores how choices have consequences which affect us, our future, our friends and family and the wider community. Children are given the opportunity to discuss the risks of carrying knives and the laws around knife crime, whilst engaging in meaningful discussion and practical activities.

We have already delivered over 50 sessions to primary schools in Milton Keynes

What teachers say about the session:

'A clear and friendly approach to a difficult topic. There was a lot of interaction and conversation.'

'... children engaged throughout'

"The content was appropriate for the year group and was delivered in an excellent manner so that the children were not scared, but they felt comfortable to listen, answer and ask questions. A challenging topic that was well presented."

'An engaging session which had a big impact.'

'It really helped children realise the potential impact of one decision. '

'A brilliant and valuable lesson.'

In addition, MK Citizen and [MKFM have recently reported](#) on the session, emphasising its importance to young people.

The session has been so popular and highly regarded, that we have decided to roll it out to other regions in the area at a cost of only £130 + VAT. If you would like your year 5 or 6 pupils to experience this valuable lesson, before moving on to their secondary school, or would like further information, please contact 01908 714356 or email katherine@safetycentre.co.uk.

Living Streets - Walk With Us!

Our five-day walking challenge is an annual celebration of the walk to school and the perfect activity to celebrate National Walking Month this May - [order your classroom packs now!](#)

The fun and engaging week-long activity for primary schools has been built to make **pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school.**

Through this challenge, children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended **60 minutes minimum of physical activity per day** before even reaching the school gates!

Last year, a record number of over 350,000 pupils across the UK took part! Join this growing movement of children walking to school and help us make 2022 our biggest year yet!

JOIN US 16-20 MAY 2022

