



Welcome to the first School Travel Plan Coordinator's Newsletter of the new academic year

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Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn '22 Edition of Buckinghamshire Council's School Travel Planning Newsletter. The first one of the new academic year!

I hope you all had a wonderful Summer.

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 walking 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, particularly for any new Travel Plan Advisors we have, 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.

Thank you for your time.

Emma James

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.

September

World Car Free Day 22nd Sep [World Car Free Day | Living Streets](#)

October

Living Streets Walk to School Month [International Walk to School Month | Living Streets](#)

Cycle to School Week 3rd- 7th Oct [Cycle to School with Bikeability this October](#)

Walk, Bike and Roll to School 12th Oct [Walk & Bike to School \(walkbiketoschool.org\)](#)

School Awards July 2022 Aylesbury Venue – 13th Oct - invite only

Be Bright Be Seen Week 17th – 21st Oct [Be bright be seen game – THINK!](#)

November

Safe Drive Stay Alive 7th,8th, and 11th [Dates - Safe Drive Stay Alive](#)

Road Safety Week 14th -20th Nov [Road Safety Week | Brake](#)

Beep Beep Day 16th [Beep Beep! Days | Brake](#)

December

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

January

Bus Behaviour -reminder secondary schools [Anti-social behaviour on public transport: safety measures - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

February

Children's Mental Health Week 6th - 12th Feb

[Schools and Youth Groups - Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](#)

March

World book Day 2nd March [Schools and Nurseries - World Book Day](#)

Beep Beep Day [Home | Brake](#)

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel-20th - 30th March [Sustrans Big Pedal - Sustrans.org.uk](#)

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

May

National Bike and Roll to school 4th May [Bike to School Day | Safe Routes to School \(saferoutesmichigan.org\)](#)

Walk to School Week 15th -19th May [Walk to School Week | Living Streets](#)

Happy Feet <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/happyshoeday>

June

Anti-idling Day/Clean Air Day [Clean Air Day - the UK's largest clean air campaign](#)

Brake Kids Walk [Home](#) | [Brake](#)

July

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

Deadline Accreditation 31st July Modeshift STARS [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 offer 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. To find out if your school has a Travel Plan, please email schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. 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 school's 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 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 (Emma James) 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. <https://www.modeshiftstars.org/> .

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 60 schools in Buckinghamshire that in a very difficult year still managed to get accredited for their School Travel Plan. Your awards and certificates will be given to you on a celebration day in October. For those schools that were so close but didn't quite get there don't give up. You are doing amazing work to keep our children safe. despite of COVID-19 still having an impact on staffing levels and the time schools can commit to their STP I know we had lots of fantastic work going on in and around our schools in Buckinghamshire. It was lovely reading your STPs and looking through all the pictures that you used for evidence.

Modeshift now accreditate three times a year so you may well be able to get accredited this next time round. The dates are 31 December 2022, 31 March & 31 July 2023. 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. Why not plan events now then add them to the system? This makes life easier when you need to submit evidence for accreditation and could get you Green.

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.

As we start a new school year, your staff and pupil numbers may have changed. This information needs to be updated, which can be found under the 'Introduction' tab. 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. 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

I will still be sending you regular emails and I will run one to one meeting for you over the school year. I hope to cover what you need to complete your School Travel Plan to help you get accredited. I will cover some trouble shooting on the Modeshift STARS system along with giving you some more information about initiatives. You will need to be logged on to Modeshift and be on Teams or a hands-free phone.

I will also be arranging some group online meetings so schools can share ideas with each other, so please let me know if you are interested in this. It will be an ideal opportunity to share ideas as well as look at common problems schools may be having.

If you would like a meeting in your PPA time let me know when is best for you by emailing me for a time slot that suits you. Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Examples of Initiatives

The following are examples of initiatives that schools can try. There are many more ideas on our website, see <https://schooltravelplanning.com/initiatives>.

Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs)

(Promotions- Supporting PR 7, 20 Consultations P 3, 4)

Please register children now to be a JRSO at your school don't forget to add them to your working group on the Modeshift system under the working group tab. JRSOs promote road safety and sustainable transport to their fellow pupils and have fun whilst they are doing it!

There is a fantastic JTA resource pack on the Modeshift STARS system under the guidance tab at the top of the page. We will not be running the annual JRSO Fun Day this school year. I will be sending you regular email to share with the JRSO instead. As schools are finding it hard to release staff for the day along with many of the charities and partners, we link with are not running free activities as most have moved their information online since COVID.

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 concern's 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 are encouraging everyone to think about walking, cycling, scooting, or catching the bus or train to school or if driving is the only option to park further away from school and walking instead of driving all the way.

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 Coordinators 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?

Think Before You Park Banner



Child pedestrian training Footsteps (Road Safety & Training - Travel R 5)

As parents we are very protective of our children and sometimes make all the necessary decisions about crossing roads without involving our children in the thought process, or alternatively provide no guidance at all. Many children travel by car rather than on foot and therefore have little exposure to traffic.

We think Road Safety is one of the most important lessons in life and as such we will be relaunching Footsteps Training as an on-line initiative in the Autumn. An email will be sent to all schools as soon as it is live.

Footsteps is a practical pedestrian skills training programme for children aged 4-7 years old, which helps to develop awareness of roads and helps them live safely with traffic. Children are taken into the local area with a volunteer Tutor to observe the traffic and discuss road safety. There are three stages, stage one (red), stage two (amber) and stage three (green). Each build on the last stage, covering the basic "Green Cross Code" then adding other aspects of road safety. Children receive a certificate at each stage to recognise their progress and achievements.

This is a learning journey; it may take a long time before children can cope on their own. As part of the new programme, we are keen to encourage parents to continue with this training when they are walking their child to the shops or to the local park and help their children learn the skills to become safer, more confident pedestrians.

Here are some ideas you may wish to send out to parents:

- Encourage your child to make their own decisions safely when you are out and about together. Ask lots of open questions and involve your child in the decision making.
- Always be a good role model as your child will copy your behaviour. Even if you are in a hurry, never do anything you wouldn't want your child to do.
- Bend down to your child's height to get a better understanding of their experience of the world and what they can and cannot see.
- STOP at the roadside, ask your child where it is safe to cross the road where you get the best view (not near a junction, bend, or brow of a hill).
- Discuss why they need to stop and wait? Ask why they need to hold your hand? Ask what your child can see... Remember you have more experience of judging traffic and speeds, but your child has not yet learnt those skills.
- Name parts of the road, for example 'a kerb,' or 'driveway'. Why do they think the road dips down in front of a house or shop? Why should we walk on the pavement and not run?
- LOOK at the traffic, discuss which direction the vehicles are coming from and explain that traffic can come from several directions remember to look into drives and other vehicle access points.

- It is important to make sure that children look with their eyes, very often they just shake their heads from side to side. Let them know how important it is to look all around, not just left to right.
- Are the vehicles moving towards them or away from them?
- LISTEN – can they hear a vehicle before they can see it? Explain that some electric vehicles make little sound or no sound at all! Explain how emergency vehicles on a blue light or siren may not always behave as you would expect, for instance they may travel on the opposite side of the road to bypass traffic and not adhere to red lights at signalized junctions or crossings.
- THINK - how will you cross the road? Walking or running? Why? Which is the safer option when crossing the road, straight across or diagonally? Why?
- Ask your child where it is safe to cross the road (not near a junction, bend, or brow of a hill)
- zebra crossings, where do you stand to wait? Why must you wait until the traffic has stopped? Remind your child to continue looking all around whilst crossing with you in case a driver has not seen you.
- Pedestrian light-controlled crossings - What will pushing the button do? Which vehicles may not stop at a pedestrian light-controlled crossing or a zebra crossing – emergency vehicles on blue lights or a driver not concentrating!

Following Footsteps will help you support your child to become a safer, more confident, and independent pedestrian. Walking to school with your child will help ease congestion outside the school gate helps to reduce congestion and pollution, as well as improving the health and fitness of children and young people.

For more information please contact:

Email: schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or

Corinne Randall Corinne.Randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Bikeability Cycle Training (Road Safety & Training- Travel R 1, Promotion-Supporting PR 1,3,9)

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 Spring 2023 term. The funding window opens on Thursday 8th September and closes on Thursday 22nd September 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/cycletraining-for-schools/>

For more information, please contact Georgina Longley at Georgina.longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Other Initiatives

Healthy Schools

Buckinghamshire Council is offering all state funded schools an opportunity to gain a Health Schools Award, valid for three years. Access to the self-evaluation online toolkit has been funded by Buckinghamshire Public Health for three years and promotes a whole school approach to health and wellbeing. The award covers four core aspects, and supports schools to evaluate current practice and develop the quality of PSHE, Healthy Eating, Social, Emotional and Mental Health, and Physical Activity.

To achieve the Award, schools are required to fulfil a number of criteria including developing an STP in the Physical Activity section of Partnership Working. So, if your school already has an STP you may also be on your way to obtaining a Healthy School Award as well. To register for the award visit <https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/public-health/buckinghamshire-healthy-schools-award/> For more information on Healthy Schools in Buckinghamshire please contact carol.stottor@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Living Streets

Due to changes in funding the Council receives from the Department for Transport, it can no longer fund Living Streets WOW Travel Tracker or Next Steps. The good news is that schools can still purchase WOW Travel Tracker directly from Living Streets and there are [many ways to fund WOW](#). Some schools choose to use their [PE and Sport Premium](#) funding. WOW will only take up a small fraction of your funding (around **£2 per pupils for a whole year**) but will bring big results!

Please email orders@livingstreets.org.uk who can help you with your order.

World Car-free Day 22nd September (Air Quality – Travel Initiative AQ2)

Taking place on 22nd September, World Car-free Day is an annual celebration of cities and public life, free from the noise, stress, and pollution of cars. This is a fantastic chance to discuss the importance of exercise with your children as well as the impact of cars on the environment. <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/event/world-carfree-day-2020>

The history of a car-free days goes back to the 1970s when several events were organised during the oil crisis. However, they weren't organised on a specific date, but more on an informal basis. It wasn't until 1994 when Eric Britton gave a keynote speech about the importance of such projects and events.

Within two years local events were organised in Bath (UK), Reykjavik (Iceland) and La Rochelle (France). In 1999 an International Car-free Day was organised in Europe, which was the pilot project for today's European Mobility Week. It was in 2000 when it was agreed that the World Car-free Day would be celebrated on 22nd September every year.

Walk, Bike and Roll to School 12th Oct (Cycling – Travel Initiative C16)

Celebrate cycling and scooting to school and [the massive benefits this brings to children's health and the environment.](#)

Everyone can take part in Walk, Bike and Roll to School and there is no registration process for schools. Please see [How to Plan: Walk & Bike to School \(walkbiketoschool.org\)](http://walkbiketoschool.org). Your school journey can be made with any type of cycle, for example, handcycle, tagalong, cargo bike or scooter.

Be Bright Be Seen Week 17th –21st October (Road Safety & training –Travel R10)

As the nights start to get darker and the clocks go back on October 30th it is always a good idea to remind the children and their parents/carers to be bright and visible on the way to and from school. [Be bright be seen game – THINK!](#) Why not hold a day where the children come to school dressed in their normal school uniform but with extra florescent clothing, for example socks, hats, gloves, or hair bands? Staff can join in too! Also please remember to check the batteries on your bike lights!

Brake and road safety week 14-20 November (Road Safety & Training-Travel R9,11,18)

The theme of Road Safety Week 2022 is SAFE ROADS FOR ALL, bringing together communities and professionals to shout out for everyone's right to make safe and healthy journeys on safe roads. [Road Safety Week | Brake](#)

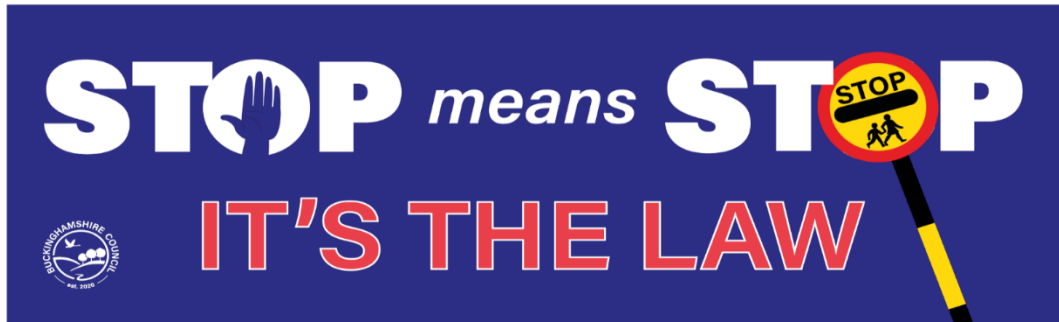
School Crossing Patrollers

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 However, they are experiencing rising cases of abuse and threatening behaviour from a minority of drivers who are potentially putting lives at risk.

This autumn we are reminding drivers of their legal obligations to stop for the lollipop. The 1988 Road Traffic Act clearly states that as soon as a patroller raises their sign, even if they

have not stepped into the road, drivers must be prepared to stop. Once the School Crossing Patroller is in the road displaying the sign, drivers must stop, and not proceed until the School Crossing Patroller and all those crossing have cleared the road. Drivers flouting the law could face a £1,000 fine, three penalty points and even disqualification. Banners are available to borrow, for schools for have patrollers.

Banner - Stop Means Stop - it's the law



Please help to support our patrollers and if there is an incident please contact: Corinne Randall Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe (West) or Georgina Longley Chiltern & South Bucks and Wycombe (East).

Manor Farm Schools Crossing Patroller Talks to children about Road Safety (Partnerships – Supporting P10, - Supporting PR1)

On a recent visit to talk to the children at Come & Play Preschool about Road Safety, our School Crossing Patroller Rita soon found a potential recruit as can be seen in the photograph below: Rita is our School Crossing Patroller at the busy Manor Farm Schools, Hazlemere. Rita tells us 'It's the best job she has ever done.'

We are currently looking to recruit School Crossing Patrollers and Relief Patrollers at some locations. Do you know any-one who can help? Job shares are also welcome.



Contacts

Contact the School Travel Planning Team

Emma James — Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

School Travel Plan Advisor

Corinne Randall— Corinne.Randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Footsteps Training

School Crossing Patroller Supervisor Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe (West)

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

Bikeability Training

School Crossing Patroller Supervisor Chiltern & South Bucks & Wycombe (East)

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

The following pages provide some additional information from some of our partners relating to school travel. This includes Bucks Radio, Road Safety GB, and Thame Valley Police.

Partner News



Promote your School Travel Plan (Promotion- Supporting PR 3)

Don't forget if you are doing anything in your school and want to get noticed in Buckinghamshire you can promote your School Travel Plan to Bucks Radio through <https://www.bucks.radio/> 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 in February 2021. We've been overwhelmed by the support we've received so far and are looking forward to becoming a part of Buckinghamshire 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.... Also visit... when we are able! For more details check out our website: www.bucks.radio



In association with



Road Safety Team at Transport for Buckinghamshire

Digital Guides available – FREE

The Road Safety Team at Transport for Buckinghamshire have made freely available a number of digital guides from the award-winning **Good Egg safety guides**. The guides cover in-car safety for children, young drivers and their parents, family cycling and riders of mopeds or scooters. Having the guides in a digital format means they are accessible to anyone that needs them at a time to suit them. The guides can all be accessed online by visiting: <https://buckinghamshire.goodeggsafety.com/>

The guides cover:

- **Child Car Seat Safety.** Do you know what type of car seat your child needs? Learn everything about child car seats in this free online digital guide. Support for parents

and carers on choosing and fitting car seats for babies, toddlers, and older children; the law, and common fitting errors.

- **Child safety.** A complete guide to keeping your child safe at home.
- **Cycling for families.** Expert tips and advice about how to buy, ride and stay safe on a bike for new and experienced cyclists.
- **New Drivers.** How to get your licence and keep it. Information on finding a driving Instructor and essential tips for passing your test.
- **Parents of new drivers.** Information and guidance on helping your sons and daughters stay safe behind the wheel.
- **Riders.** Guide to riding a scooter, moped or 125cc bike.

If you have any questions or comments on the digital guides, please contact June Howlett: June.Howlett@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Car Seat Checks

During October and November, the Road Safety Team will be organising some car seat checking events at local supermarkets, dates, and venues yet to be confirmed. If you would be interested in attending and getting your car seat checked or would like more information, then please contact June.Howlett@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Maria Hamer – Road Safety Officer, Hampshire Constabulary and Thames Valley Police



The new school year means that some of you will be starting at new schools. For those of you who take the bus there could be new bus routes, and cyclists, drivers and pedestrians will have new roads to learn. If you are on unfamiliar roads or pavements, be aware of other road users and be prepared for the unexpected.

Things to remember on your route to and from school: -

Use the pavements - if you are walking stay on the pavement and don't step into the road.

Use road crossings - they have been put there to help keep you safe.

Avoid distractions like mobile phones – you can only take action to avoid risks if you are aware of them.

As the mornings and evenings start to get darker make sure you can be seen. Avoid wearing dark clothing if possible and put a reflective strip on your coat or bag to make sure other road users can see you.

Avoid crossing roads from in between parked cars or in front of buses. Drivers won't know you're there if they can't see you.

If you are cycling, stick to the cycle paths and roads and make sure you have your lights on when it is dark. Stop at red lights and avoid making sudden changes on your route. You need to give other road users time to react to you.

Most importantly, look out for other road users. If everyone on the roads and pavements is considerate of others, they will be safer for everyone.

Safe Drive Stay Alive

Safe Drive Stay Alive is a road safety event aimed at 16–24-year-olds. After a two-year gap due to Covid it returns to live performances in November 2022. Many seats have already been booked for this year's performances but there are still some gaps. If your school has not booked their seats yet please go to the website <https://safedrive.org.uk> where you can also add your travel arrangements.

For those who are booked please make sure you have added your coach company and the number of coaches you are bringing. This will ensure that Thames Valley Police can pay the coach companies. If the number of students, you are bringing changes please can you update the website. This means that any extra seats can be offered to others. We look forward to seeing you in November.