



Welcome to the Schools' Sustainable Transport Team Newsletter

Website: www.schooltravelplanning.com
Email: schooltravelplanning.com

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Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 Edition of the Schools Sustainable Transport Team Newsletter. We hope you had a lovely summer break.

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.

The Council is encouraging children and parents to think about the way they travel to and from school in its Back-to-School Campaign. It reminds them about safety as well as 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. Also catching the bus or train is a great way to get to school and can be quite sociable. Often there is an element of active travel to get to and from bus stops.

Important Information

To help with encouraging behaviour change to more active and sustainable travel to school, the Council currently has funding for **Bikeability Cycle Training** and **Living Streets' WOW Travel Tracker**. There is more information about these initiatives later in the Newsletter, but in the meantime, please get in touch if you would like more information about how to take part:

Bikeability Cycle Training: georgina.longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk WOW Travel Tracker: amanda.hayes@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Following the list of key dates, this Newsletter explains school travel planning, why we have School Travel Plans, Modeshift Stars, and its accreditation process. It then gives examples of initiatives for schools to try and school events from last term. Finally it includes news from some of our partners.

Key Dates for your Diary

September 2023

Cycle September 1st- 30th September - Home: Love to Ride UK

TravelWise Week 16th-22nd September. There is lots of information and free resources available at: <u>TravelWise Week – Modeshift – Sustainable Travel</u>

World Car Free Day 22nd September - <u>World Car Free Day with Living Streets | Living Streets</u> Cycle to School Week 25th- 29th September - There is lots of information and free resources available at: <u>Cycle to School Week - Bikeability</u>

October 2023

International Walk to School Month 1st- 31st October - <u>International Walk to School Month |</u> Living Streets

National Walk & Roll to School Day is 4th October - <u>Walk & Bike to School</u> (walkbiketoschool.org)

Be Bright Be Seen Week 16th – 20th October - Be bright be seen game – THINK!

November 2023

Road Safety Week 19th -25th Nov - Road Safety Week | Brake

December 2023

Deadline Accreditation Modeshift STARS - 31 December - Login - Modeshift STARS

January 2024

Bus Behaviour - reminder for secondary schools - <u>Anti-social behaviour on public transport:</u> <u>safety measures - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>

February 2024

Children's Mental Health Week 5th - 9th February - <u>Schools - Children's Mental Health Week</u> (childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

March 2024

World book Day 7th March - <u>Educators - World Book Day</u>
Beep Beep Day - <u>Brake | The Road Safety Charity</u>
Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel - 20th to 30th March - <u>Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel -</u>
Sustrans.org.uk

April

Deadline Accreditation Modeshift STARS - 30th April - Login - Modeshift STARS

May

Walk to School Week (TBC) - Walk to School Week | Living Streets

June

Anti-idling Day/Clean Air Day 20th June - <u>Clean Air Day | Action for Clean Air</u> Brake Kids Walk 19th June - <u>Brake's Kids Walk | Brake</u>

July

Transition Year 7 (date TBC) - <u>Walk to School | Secondary Schools | Living Streets</u>
Deadline Accreditation Modeshift STARS - 31st July - <u>Login - Modeshift STARS</u>

School Travel Planning

A school travel plan (STP) is a document that sets out how a school will promote safer, active, and sustainable travel to and from school. The main aim 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 particularly important life skills they need to stay safe and healthy on their journey to and from school.

A good STP includes consultation with teachers, parents, pupils, governors, and other local people in the school community. An STP will:

- 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 STPs. Buckinghamshire schools can register and use it for free. Emma Jackson is our School Travel Plan Advisor, and she can be contacted on emma.jackson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. There is some really useful information on our website School Travel Planning — Buckinghamshire Council

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. Schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable transport can then be put forward for Awards.

Accreditation

The Modeshift STARS national accreditation scheme offers five award levels: Green, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. The more initiatives schools organise, the higher accreditation

schools can achieve. STPs can be submitted for accreditation three times a year on 31 March, 31 July, and 31 December.

If your school is already working on your STP, please contact emma.jackson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk who can help with December submissions. If you would like to register, please go to the website https://www.modeshiftstars.org/ and request a login. Emma can help with this too.

Once registered, schools can create their own bespoke Walking Bubble Maps for free! Why not launch it during TravelWise Week (16th-22nd September)? There is more about this event later in the Newsletter.

To date we have 73 Bucks school who have an accredited STP. This is a fantastic achievement and congratulations to you all! We have many more schools who were close, so please keep up the amazing work! We really appreciate all the challenging work undertaken.

School Travel Plan Coordinator Meetings (Consultation LA1, S2, SM1)

Emma can be contacted for one-to-one meetings at a time that is convenient to you. This is a good opportunity to get help with Modeshift STARs system, plan ahead for the new school year, information about initiatives and what needs updating on your STP. Your Travel Plan Coordinator will need to be logged on to Modeshift and be on Teams or a hands-free phone.

Emma can also hold group session over Teams and give you a chance to all catch up all together. Please email Emma if you would like to take part.

Announcements

Modeshift STARs National School Travel Award Winners 2022/23 (Promotion PR1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 13)

Out of 125 schools nominated across the whole country for the 2023 National Modeshift STARS School Travel Awards, 11 were Buckinghamshire schools! Awards were given for School of the Local Authority and School of the Region. The regional awards offer the chance for Modeshift to thank schools for their efforts, celebrate their hard work and celebrate their journeys.

It was fantastic to hear that Amersham School won best Secondary School for the South East Region. The school was invited to The Modeshift STARS National School Travel Awards Celebration, which took place on Thursday 22 June 2023. Regional winners went to The Riverside Rooms in London where they gave a presentation about their STP. Unfortunately,

Amersham did not win overall but it was a fantastic experience for the students, and what an amazing achievement to get down to the last 12 schools in the country.



Congratulations to all of the wonderful finalists that took part in the event, but most importantly thank you for all the hard work, creativity, and commitment in continuing to develop and implement your sustainable travel journey, increasing levels of sustainable travel across the country and achieve Modeshift STARS accreditation success.

For more information please see : <u>Modeshift STARS National School Travel Award Winners</u> 2022/23 - Modeshift STARS

Initiatives To Try

Bikeability Cycle Training (Road Safety & Training - Travel R1, Promotion- PR1, 3, 9 Consultant SM1, S2, P4)

Bikeability is today's cycle training programme. It is 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 Council receive funding from the Bikeability Trust for its schools so apart from an administrative fee it is free.

The following link is to a suite of tools to help your school maximise the impact of Bikeability. <u>Tools for Schools - Presentations and leaflets | Bikeability</u>

Schools are invited to apply for funding a term ahead of when the training is planned to happen. 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 - Cycle training for schools | SchoolsWeb (buckscc.gov.uk)

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

Funding Available for Living Street's WOW Travel Tracker

The Council has a limited amount of funding from Active Travel England for primary schools to register to use Living Streets' WOW Travel Tracker. See <u>Walk to School | Primary schools | Living Streets</u>.

WOW is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle, or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It is that easy!

It is simple to run, and children love taking part. Each year, the collectable WOW badges are designed by pupils in the annual badge design competition. On average, WOW schools see a 30% reduction in car journeys taken to the school gate and a 23% increase in walking rates.

Schools will need to undertake a baseline survey before participating in the challenge so that we can monitor the results and report back to Active Travel England. The welcome packs will include information about how to do this. The survey is really quick and easy to complete, it is just a hands up survey that needs to be completed for each class. It should only take 2 minutes.

The WOW Travel Tracker is an initiative on Modeshift STARS and will fulfil a number of requirements towards your school travel plan.

If you are not already using WOW and would like to start using it, please contact: amanda.hayes@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Please include your school name, address, lead contact for WOW at the school, their email address and also the pupil numbers, with WOW Travel Tracker in the subject line. We will allocate resources on a first come first served basis.

Footsteps New online Training Programme launching in September. (Travel initiative R5 supporting PR1, 3, 9 and CU7 Consultation SM1, S1, P4)

Footsteps is a road safety training programme for primary school children, designed to help children to learn to think for themselves and gradually get better at dealing with roads and traffic. It is important for parents/guardians to reinforce this learning. It has recently been revamped and electronic documents are available to download free to Buckinghamshire Schools. For more information please contact: Corinne.randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Children are encouraged to make their own choices and decisions about what they see and hear through open questioning. With progression they will get better at deciding what they must do to keep safe in various traffic situations. The programme incorporates a separate

Parents' Guide for Children which introduces parents to the programme and encourages their participation in their child's training.

Why not have a Road Safety Afternoon for the whole School and invite your local police/fire brigade or even your School Crossing Patroller to share their knowledge with the children. Further useful websites:

Explore education resources – THINK!

Brake Road Safety - Brake | The Road Safety Charity

The AA Motoring Trust The Facts About Road Accidents and Children (theaa.com)

For more guidance refer to: <u>Tales of the Road (think.gov.uk)</u>

Modeshift Walking Bubble Maps

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

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 feel safer. It is easy for schools that are registered with Modeshift STARS to create their Walking Bubble map.

Please visit the 'Guidance' tab in Modeshift for instructions and to download the 'How to generate your #StaySafeGetActive Walking Bubble Map' guide #StaySafeGetActive Walking Bubbles - Modeshift STARS.

Parents' Parking Promise (Promotions - PR13, 16, 17, Air Quality-Travel AQ8)

The Council's 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. The initiative works well in schools where there are problems with parents and guardians parking inconsiderately and dangerously.

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 supply the car stickers.



This is a picture of our parking promise sticker:

We can also provide a sample Parents' Parking Promise document which 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.

We also have images you can use on your social media channels and newsletters to support considerate parking:





Image demonstrating that parking on zig zags endangers school children.

Image requesting people not to park across drop kerbs.



Image demonstrating that bad parking can block access for emergency vehicles.



Image suggesting avoiding bad parking, walk, cycle or scoot to school instead

Image demonstrating that parking in bus stops backs up traffic and causes delays.



Image demonstrating that parking on the kerb forces pedestrians into the road.

Please contact schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk for more information.

Banners

(Promotion PR19)

We are encouraging everyone to think about walking, cycling, scooting, or catching the bus or train to school. If driving is the only option, please park further away from school and walk instead of driving all the way. We have designed some banners to promote this.

To borrow a banner, please email 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, 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 does not become 'blind' to passers-by. Alternatively please return it in your school's 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

Why not borrow one of our parking banners, and, along with the Parents Parking Promise and social media pictures run your own parking campaign?



Considerate Parking Banner

We also have banners that let your school community know you are working on your School Travel Plan or that you have a School Travel Plan.



Go Drive (Travel Initiatives R7 Promotion PR1 Consultation SM1, P4, S1)

The decision was taken by Thames Valley Police that Safe Drive Stay Alive production usually shown in Wycombe theatre would not be going ahead in the future. The Buckinghamshire Road Safety Team have been working with partners on an alternative to offer to secondary schools and hope that from the autumn we will have a new resource called **'Go Drive'** to offer to all schools for pupils over 16 years. The film was trialled by some schools during 2021 and is currently being updated and will now contain time for engagement and interaction.

We are excited to be launching this resource and if your school would like to be involved in the roll out, then please contact Liz Johnson via email:

Elizabeth.Johnson1@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Digital Guides

The Council's Road Safety Team have a number of free digital guides.

The titles include;

- Learning to Drive the parents' guide.
- First Car the young drivers guide.
- Drive On guide for older drivers.
- First Bike young motorcyclist guide
- Ultimate Guide to Cycling
- Ride on For riders of larger motorcycles
- Car Seat Smarter The guide for safely transporting children.

The guides can be found by going to <u>Buckinghamshire Council</u> | <u>Aylesbury, Chiltern, South Bucks, Wycombe</u> and search 'road safety digital guides. If you would further information on any of the resources above or QR codes for your website or social media, then please do contact: <u>Elizabeth.Johnson1@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</u>.

TravelWise Week (Travel Initiative AQ2, AQ5, and lot more depending on what you do, supporting CU1, PR1 Consultant SM1, SM3, S2, P4)

Modeshift have created a social media toolkit for supporters to use and help spread the TravelWise Week word. The toolkit can be downloaded from the TravelWise Week page on the website along with the assets for you to use on your social channels.

Please make sure you always do one of the following in each post to amplify your reach:

- Use #CarFreeDay #TravelWiseWeek or #TravelWisely
- Tag @TeamModeshift
- Link to the TraveWiseWeek webpage <u>TravelWise Week Modeshift Sustainable Travel</u>

Make a pledge!

Please make a pledge to act on during TravelWise Week. This is key content for you to use on social media. Pledge cards are available to download on the website.

Examples of the pledges people are making are:

- I will walk to school and back every day.
- I'll be ditching the car on #CarFreeDay.
- I'll use public transport to get to my office.
- I'll cycle to work for three days this week.

How to make a pledge:

Take a photograph or video of yourself holding one of the pledge cards or use the digital pledge included in the social media toolkit. Then post it on social media using the hashtag #TravelWiseWeek.



Be Bright Be Seen (Travel initiatives R10 Promotions PR1,9 Consultation SM1, P4, S1)

As students head back to school after the summer break, the days will be getting shorter and darker. Buckinghamshire's Road Safety team would like to remind parents and carers that when buying new winter coats for their children, please look for some sort of reflective piping or bright, contrasting colours to help them be more conspicuous on the roads.

Examples of Initiatives

Tylers Green Middle school- Street Smart song and Clean Air Day (Travel Initiative AQ15,10 R9,18 Supporting CU2,3,10 PR1,3,4,7,9,10,13 Consultation SM1, S2, P4)

Tyles Green have been busy with not only producing their own song but also their very own clear air day playground art.

Tylers Green Middle school has produced an amazing song promoting safe travel to and from school. Bucks Radio thought it was so good we visited the school to produce a music video to go with their song! Inspired by Road Safety Week 2022, the children worked together to write a song about staying safe on the roads around school and promoting active travel. They then recorded all of the classes singing the song and have had it professionally mixed to share with everybody. See the link to the children singing and you might just spot their school crossing patrol. Please see <u>Tylers Green Pupils create 'Street Smart' song - Bucks Radio</u>.

The school also thought about ways they could improve the quality of our air and what our world would be like if we could get rid of air pollution! The School Travel Plan (STP) is developed by the whole school community, to promote and facilitate sustainable travel for the school journey, and Clean Air Day was a perfect opportunity to think about this. See the link to the amazing playground art. Clean Air Day: School Travel Plan | Tylers Green Middle School



Turnfurlong Infant and Turnfurlong junior school (Travel Initiatives AQ13,14,15 supporting P2, PR1,4, Consultation SM1, P4, S2)

The two schools joined forces with their STP and Ashma UK to investigate air quality around the two schools. If you would like to see if your air quality is having an impact on the student health, why not contact Asthma UK too. <u>Clean Air Champions (aluk.org.uk)</u>

School Crossing Patrollers

Celebrating 70 years of safer school crossings

Over the years, thousands of children across Buckinghamshire have enjoyed a safer journey walking to school, thanks predominantly, to the efforts of the county's much loved school crossing patrollers who celebrate their 70th anniversary this year. The national school

crossing patrol service was officially created by the School Crossing Patrol Act in 1953 with the first SCPs wearing white coats and peaked hats.

Buckinghamshire currently has around 50 school crossing patrollers on duty, working across all parts of the county. Every morning and evening during term time, come rain or shine, they are out, guiding children, parents, and carers safely across the road to and from school.

Many of the current school crossing patrollers have been doing the job for years. Between them they have totted up more than 500 years of service, helping multiple generations of families.

To celebrate the 70-year milestone and to say thank you to all school crossing patrollers, past and present, Buckinghamshire Council hosted a special event in High Wycombe in June.

The patrollers had many stories to tell: one patroller in Buckingham recalls once guiding a horse and rider safely across the road amidst the schoolchildren. Another proudly relays how they lost three stone in weight when first starting in post, simply by all the walking he does on his patrol site. One school crossing patroller called Mario is affectionally known as Super Mario by the children who greet him fondly every day. One thing all the patrollers clearly have in common is their love of the job with all of them saying how rewarding they find the role.

Steven Broadbent, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Transport attended the celebration event to speak to and thank the school crossing patrollers for their hard work.



Buckinghamshire Council's School Crossing Patrollers

Active Travel Update

Interactive Map (Initiatives PR5,7,15 Consultation SM1, P4, S1)

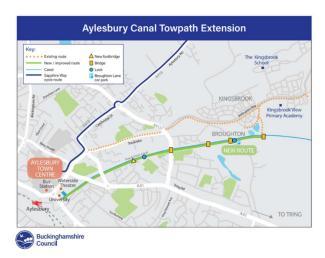
Take a look at the routes near you using our new interactive map! The map displays a variety of routes to walk and cycle, including Zipp scooter bay locations and bus stops. You

are able to toggle on and off layers.

Why not visit the map to check out your nearest route: Walks and Rides (arcgis.com)

Aylesbury Canal Towpath

The Aylesbury Canal Towpath arm has undergone significant improvements thanks to an £800,000 investment. The improvements have ensured the route is widened, resurfaced, accessibility improved and installing new signage. Keep your eyes peeled for an event in October offering Bike Register and Route Information! Please see the map below for the route information.



St Peter's Greenway

Transport Strategy and the School Sustainable Travel Team held a competition for the students at Buckingham Park School to draw an active travel themed design focused on Active Travel. The winners of the competition then drew their design on the Greenway! A massive well done to the 54 entrants and the winner.

Platinum Way

Is your school along the Platinum Way? (See map below) If so, we want to hear from you! We can offer your school and students initiatives that promote and encourage walking, cycling, and scooting to school. All Initiatives are free, some examples are Bike Fix Sessions, Bike Register, Active Travel Breakfast and Golden Padlock. Please contact travelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk to find out more.



School Travel Planning Contacts

The School Travel Planning Team is part of the Schools' Sustainable Travel Team. If you have any queries, please contact:

Amanda Hayes – <u>Amanda.Hayes@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</u> School Sustainable Travel Team Leader

Emma Jackson — <u>emma.jackson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</u> 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— <u>Georgina.Longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</u>

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, and Rescue, Living Streets.

Promote your School Travel Plan (Promotion-Supporting PR3 Consultation SM1, S1, P4)

Do not 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 <u>Bucks Radio</u>. Get in touch by emailing news@bucks.radio mailto:

Bucks Radio is the 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 have been overwhelmed by the support we have 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 are 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: <u>Bucks Radio</u>

Coombe Bikes

(Travel intiative C12,16, supporting CU5,10 and PR1 Consultation SM1,S2,P4)

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 Work With Us | Coombe Bikes



Safety Education Delivered in Your Classroom- Book Now for The Autumn Term (Travel Initiatives R9,11, PT4 Supporting PR1,9, CU7 Consultation SM1, P4, S1)

Invite the Safety Centre's experienced Education Team into your classroom for interactive, age-appropriate safety education workshops for KS1 upwards. Safety workshops support the PSHE curriculum and cover a range of topics including online safety, early knife crime intervention, drug and alcohol safety, gas safety and the emergency services.

Sessions can be delivered to children, teachers, and parents on a variety of safety topics from the comfort of the classroom. All workshops are tailored to meet the age group and needs of each class. Contact the team now on 01908 263009 to talk about booking a workshop or email educationteam@safetycentre.co.uk

Find out more on our website <u>Sessions in schools (safetycentre.co.uk)</u>

Feedback from teachers:

'The session was outstanding, the best workshop we have ever had!'

'Children were totally engaged, the activities were inclusive, well prepared and well presented.'

'The delivery of the information was excellent, and the children really enjoyed the session. It was very interactive with the class and very considerate of the class needs.'