



Welcome to the Schools' Sustainable Transport Team Newsletter

Website: www.schooltravelplanning.com

Email: schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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Welcome

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 would like to encourage everyone to walk, cycle, scoot, or park further away from school, and then walk instead of driving all the way to the school gate. Also catching the bus or train is a fantastic 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 places at all schools**, and for **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 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

May

Walk to School Week 20-24 - [Walk to School Week | Living Streets](#)

Living Streets five-day walk to school challenge is the perfect activity to run as part of celebrating National Walking Month. [National Walking Month \(livingstreets.org.uk\)](#). Are your pupils ready to discover **The Magic of Walking?** This year's challenge encourages children to travel actively to school every day of the week. Meeting various magical beings along the way, they will learn about the important reasons to walk or wheel and its benefits for individuals, communities and the planet!

June

Anti-idling Day/Clean Air Day 20th June –

Please see [Action for clean air | Schools](#) for more information, free resources and toolkits and [Clean Up Our Air Campaign | Buckinghamshire Council](#).

Brake Kids Walk 19th June - [Brake's Kids Walk | Brake](#)

July

Year 6/7 Transition Days [Next steps to secondary school \(livingstreets.org.uk\)](#)

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

September

Buckinghamshire Council's Back to School Campaign.

School Travel Planning

The main role of the Schools' Sustainable Travel Team is to help schools 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 school travel plan (STP) is a document that sets out how a school will promote safer, active, and sustainable travel 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 do 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 lots more 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 Accreditation and Awards.

Accreditation

The Modeshift STARS national accreditation scheme offers five award levels: by adding your school's basic information you will achieve '**Approved.**' As you identify and complete initiatives you move up to '**Good,**' which is what we expect all schools in Buckinghamshire to have. By embedding your STP into everyday school life, you achieve '**Very Good,**' and if you involve your whole school community you move up to **Excellent.** The more initiatives schools organise, the higher accreditation schools can achieve to **Outstanding.** STPs can be submitted for accreditation three times a year on 31 March, 31 July, and 31 December.

To date we have **72** Bucks schools and **one** college who have an accredited Travel Plan, along with many other schools that have just started their Travel Plan journey. 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! As a school you will be doing lots on a day today basis that links to your School Travel Plan, so why not get recognised for your hard work. We really appreciate all the challenging work undertaken to give students the important life skills and help the environment.

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

If your school is already working on your STP, please contact; emma.jackson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk who can help with July submissions. If you would like to register, please go to the website <https://www.modeshiftstars.org/> and request a login. Emma can be contacted for one-to-one meetings at a time that is convenient to you.

Announcements

WOW Travel Tracker National Leaderboard

Contratualtions to all the pupils and families at Elangeni School who are doing fantastically well with their Walk To School Challenge! They have an engagement rate of 92% for this year and an active travel rate of 95%! So 92% of children take part in travel tracker and of those 95% are walking, (including park and stride) cycling or wheeling to school.

They said:

We are thrilled to feature in the WOW National Leaderboard. We all recognise the value of walking to school or travelling sustainably and hope we can continue this trend as the weather improves so we can enjoy feeling the sunshine too!

Keep up the good work!

Aylesbury Community Board Road Safety poster competition. (Consultation LA1,RBLC5,SM4, Promotion PR1,3,8,9,Partnerships P5)

School children in Aylesbury had the chance to work with the [Aylesbury Community Board's](#) to design Road Safety poster's for the roads outside their school.

Local resident Martina Stewart joined us to review the posters and drew out the winning school, who won access to £500 towards road safety interventions in line with their Modeshift School Travel Plan. Congratulations to Year 5 pupils at Broughton Junior school.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2024

Well done and congratulations to all 17 school in Bucks that took part in The Big Walk and Wheel this year. As you can see there was over 2,300,000 journeys made in the 10 days. For more information see the website [Schools — Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2024](#)

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. [Tools for Schools - Presentations and leaflets | Bikeability](#)

All schools in Buckinghamshire are invited to apply for places 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 application form. Please book your places for the Autumn Term by 30th April 2024 if you can.

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 [Walk to School | Primary schools | Living Streets](#).

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 provide your school's 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. (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

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. For more information please contact: Corinne.randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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 \(theaa.com\)](http://theaa.com)

For more guidance refer to: [Tales of the Road \(think.gov.uk\)](http://think.gov.uk)

Modeshift Walking Bubble Maps

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

Walking Bubble maps 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. Schools can generate them for free when they register with Modeshift STARS.

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

The Council's Parents' Parking Promise (PPP) 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. To find out more about the [Parents Parking Promise – School Travel Planning](#). We have car window stickers for parents and banners too.



PPP Banner



PPP Car Window Sticker

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



Buckinghamshire Council #BeConsiderate

Image demonstrating that parking on zig zags endangers school children.



Buckinghamshire Council #BeConsiderate

Image requesting people not to park across drop kerbs.



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



Buckinghamshire Council #BeConsiderate

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



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



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

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

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. But remember they need to be moved around the school site regularly so they still get the message across.

Please return all banners to Emma Jackson (Walton Street Office) in the school post bag before the end of July for a stock check. We will distribute them again in the Autumn Term ready for our 'Back to school' campaign.



Primary School Banner



Secondary School Banner



Considerate Parking Banner



School Travel Plan Banners

School's Sustainable Travel Team Contacts

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

Amanda Hayes – Amanda.Hayes@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

School Sustainable Travel Team Leader and WOW

Emma Jackson – emma.jackson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

School Travel Plan 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

Other Council Initiatives

There are a number of Council initiatives that your school families could benefit from, such as the BetterPoints Bucks and Love Exploring Apps.

Healthy choices lead to rewards with the BetterPoints Bucks app

The BetterPoints App gives extra motivation by earning points for activities such as travelling actively to and from school. It rewards you for being active and for making other positive changes, such as giving up smoking or getting support to lose weight by providing you with points. The points can then be redeemed with high street shops and local businesses or donated to a choice of charities and local food banks.

Download the app now at [BetterPoints Bucks](#)

Love Exploring App

The Love Exploring App is designed to help families keep active and have fun. There are a variety of characters to be found in our local parks across Bucks with the [Love Exploring](#) app!

The free app enables users to get out and about exploring the local area, parks and green spaces – keeping active whilst hunting for characters using the augmented reality games. Answer questions in the fun quizzes and even have your photo taken with the characters that are found!

Great for all ages and throughout 2024, more parks will be added to the app. Currently its in 16 locations across Buckinghamshire. To find out more and to download the app, visit our [dedicated page](#).

Play Streets Bucks

Children across Buckinghamshire have the opportunity to discover the joys of playing safely outside their homes as part of the Play Streets scheme. Play Streets are also great for helping to tackle social isolation by connecting neighbours.

Residents can apply for a Play Streets session to close their road for a few hours at a time, so that communities can come together, and children can meet up and have fun outdoors.

To apply for a play street event visit the Buckinghamshire Council's [Play Streets webpage](#) – and there is more information about the scheme on the national [Playing Out website](#). Support is available for those who want to apply for a licence, which is available for 1 year and will be guided on how to deliver play street events safely.

Go Drive

Thank you to all the schools that had been selected to complete the evaluation for the new GoDrive film. The results should be ready at the end of May 2024.

As a result of the delays in obtaining this information, the GoDrive film will be shared with 6th forms in Schools and Colleges from the beginning of June. Understandably it is essential that before rolling the film out to all schools, there are no surprises from the evaluation.

In the meantime, if you would like to show students the Drive Fast Die Young documentary made by the BBC which highlights the dangers of being young driver or passenger and seemingly invincible the link can be found here [BBC iPlayer - Drive Fast Die Young](#)

Dr Elizabeth Box, research director at the RAC Foundation, featured in the documentary and she is also evaluating the GoDrive film for us.

Dr Box said: “The clear message that Jamie presents is that young males are more likely to take risks as a result of their age, experience and stage of brain development, and that we should be doing more to develop a driving system that takes account of this reality.

“I wholeheartedly support this call from Jamie and Justine and would encourage everyone to watch and share this documentary, which was so courageous of Jamie to make.”

Please also share the following Digital Magazines with Students in 6th Form
They are FREE to use and download:

[Young Driver's Guide - Buckinghamshire Edition by James Evans - Issuu](#)
[FirstBike magazine - Buckinghamshire Edition by James Evans - Issuu](#)
[Parent's Guide - Buckinghamshire Edition by James Evans - Issuu](#)

Don't forget to follow @firstcaruk on TikTok for the latest young driver clips [FirstCar \(@firstcaruk\) | TikTok](#)

Car Seat Checks

We will be holding **FREE car seat checks** at Asda Superstore, Cressex High Wycombe on the 5th June and at Broadfields Retail park near Smyths Toys, Aylesbury on the 6th June. Come along and see us if you would like your child car seat checked or for any advice.

Partner News

Here is some additional information from our partners relating to school travel.

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

If you are doing anything in your school and want to get noticed in Bucks you can promote your School Travel Plan through [Bucks Radio](#) . Get in touch by emailing news@bucks.radio. Bucks Radio broadcast online and via smart speakers.

They are especially keen to report on and promote any events and activities or positive news stories from schools across Buckinghamshire and visit when they can! See: [Bucks Radio](#)

Coombe Bikes

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

Coombe Bikes - *Your local, friendly bike repair specialist*

Get ready to roll this Spring/Summer with Coombe Bikes!

Gear up for school runs or weekend family fun with confidence. Ensure your bikes are road-ready with our exclusive Spring/Summer Travel Plan Special.

For just £19.99 per bike, our Cytech certified technician will give your wheels a thorough safety check and minor adjustments to keep you rolling smoothly. (Normally £27.50)

Offer valid for Aylesbury area only.

Don't miss out! Call Paul at 07983342590 or visit our website to book your spot today: <https://www.coombebikes.co.uk/>

Road Safety GB – Eyes Up Slow Down Cross Safely

THINK! has launched a new campaign to help parents across the country prepare their children for independent travel when they move to secondary school.

Road casualty data shows that the number of child pedestrian casualties doubles between the ages of 9 and 11 years, with incidents more likely to happen during drop-off and pick up times.

Safe Adventures speaks to parents with children about to make the leap to secondary school, focusing in on the top three risky behaviours (based on the top contributory factors assigned to child pedestrian casualties):

- Pedestrian failure to look / distraction (friends and mobiles)
- Pedestrian careless, reckless or in a hurry
- Safe place to cross (including parked cars and behind buses)

[Click here to find out more about the campaign and access the campaign toolkit.](#)

Living Streets

Next Steps Walking Challenge is designed to help KS3 students experience the benefits of active travel to secondary school. Each student receives a challenge card to complete on their journeys to and from school. Those that complete the challenge and return their card are entered into a prize draw to win a Love2shop voucher. There is a voucher up for grabs in each classroom pack. See the link for more information [Next steps to secondary school \(livingstreets.org.uk\)](https://livingstreets.org.uk)

Book Now For Your 2024-25 Hazard Alley Visit Today

Hazard Alley bookings are now open for the 2024-25 academic year. Plan your next visit to Hazard Alley, the world's first interactive safety education centre. Join us for immersive safety education for year groups 2-6. Practice what to do in emergency situations and make a 999 call.

Visits cover 12 safety scenarios including home safety, fire safety, water safety, road safety, railway safety, bullying, shoplifting, in car safety, the choices and consequences of littering and graffiti (KS1) or knife crime (KS2), first aid, safe places to cross the road and trusting your body's instinct to keep you safe. Students can also experience a safety education classroom session as part of their tour on topics including violence against women and girls, online safety, knife crime and the emergency services for year 2.

The Safety Centre's Education Team also delivers outreach sessions in schools across the region. Sessions can be delivered to children, teachers and parents on a range of safety topics

including online safety, the choices and consequences of knife crime, drug and alcohol safety, gas safety and the emergency services.

Contact the team now on 01908 263009 or book online here <https://www.safetycentre.co.uk/> to arrange your tour or outreach session.

Find out more by watching our video here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMqg3_HzUkY&t=1s



Immersive Safety Education
At Hazard Alley



Immersive Education At The Safety Centre
Hazard Alley