

This is the first in a termly newsletter highlighting the amazing work the schools, in the area I cover, who encourage active and sustainable travel within their communities.

GOOD NEWS

Big Walk and Wheel 2023

Despite the rain, snow, hail, sun and everything else the weather threw at us during those two weeks, nationally 2,666,937 recorded journeys were made by 2,772 registered schools throughout the UK, for the Big Walk and Wheel 2023.



Active and Safer Travel Team

A massive congratulations to all the schools who took part and hopefully pupils saw the benefit of walking and wheeling to school. Results will be issued soon but Hertfordshire schools did extremely well.

and now.....

Walk to School Week 15th to 19th May 2023

Has your school registered for Walk to School Week. Previous campaigns have resulted in less traffic outside the school gates, cleaner air and pupils benefiting from the exercise. Park and Stride schemes can also be promoted during this week.

Register here [W2SW](#) where you will be able to access resources to promote the week within your school or you can use your own incentives, but we do ask that you register please.

Can't commit to a whole week? Try **WOW** – Walk on Wednesdays or Walk Once a Week or Footsteps Friday. These schemes help people to break their drive to school habit, and your school could set up a reward scheme for those taking part.



And speaking of cleaner air!

Clean Air Day will be held on 15th June which gives schools an opportunity to promote active travel. Perhaps your Eco-Council can put together a campaign for drivers to leave the cars at home (or at least up the road). Visit the [Clean Air Hub](#) for information on air pollution.

See [attached](#) for an Anti-Idling leaflet that you might wish to add to your own school newsletter.

Greens anyone?

The Great Big Green Week (10th to 18th June) is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Click for details [Schools - Great Big Green Week](#)



Hertfordshire County Council – Active & Safer Travel Team

[Our vision](#) is to create a cleaner, greener and healthier Hertfordshire, guided by our **RISE** values

SCHOOLS WITH MODESHIFT STARS TRAVEL PLANS

It is amazing the variety of ideas that schools use in their travel plans.



One school includes a paragraph in their Home/School agreement that if parents do have to drive, they park considerately; another school has an eco-week where pupils are asked to think about how they travel to and from school. If you have any ideas you would like to share, please let me know and I will feature them **here**.

Active Travel Ambassadors (ATA)

We encourage Modeshift schools to appoint ATA's within schools to drive the travel plan. We normally say Y5 pupils, but some schools have a representative from each year. Schools can use their ATA's to promote initiatives, give an assembly or even put together a presentation for new parents about the advantages of walking or riding to school. If you would like more information about ATA's please let me know.



NEED OR WANT A TRAVEL PLAN? WHAT IS INVOLVED?



Starting a travel plan can sound daunting, it isn't, but my job is to support you wherever possible, so please reach out if you need help, guidance, or ideas.

To obtain the first level award – **Bronze** – you will need:

To record **one** Travel Issues (we all know that schools have more than one).

Carry out **two** Consultations (one of which is consulting with me); discussing the plan at staff meetings/school council and/or with Governors.

Carry out **10** Travel Initiatives: This sounds a lot, but when you add in schemes the school is already doing (maybe Bikeability, park and stride), it isn't that daunting. I can also present initiatives to students. You are probably doing more than you think.

Carry out **5** Supporting Initiatives: normally schools issues newsletters about safer travel/parking; teach students about environmental benefits; have a display at a parents evening – anything that supports the school's approach to the Plan.

Finally, **surveys**. A hands-up survey of students (80%) and staff (50%) which can be done digitally or paper copies and someone enters them on Modeshift. They are simply asked how they travelled to school on a chosen day.

In addition to the above, you should complete the introduction to your school, school aims and list the current travel infrastructure – your chance to promote your school – on Modeshift.

The key to a travel plan is to promote – promote – promote. Tell everyone, parents, pupils, staff, governors, neighbours, hirers etc.

Interested? Contact me: Shirley.clark@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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REMINDER OF SAVINGS FOR STUDENTS

Students aged 11 to 19 can receive half price **bus travel** with the Hertfordshire Saver Card at an annual fee of £20. Scan the QR code below for details or issue to your students.



Students travelling by **train** (very useful if leaving school for college or university)? If they are aged 16 to 25, they can receive 1/3 off train travel. Cost is £30 a year or £70 for 3 years.



Scan this QR code for details or send to your students.



If you have a Travel Plan, the promotion of the Saver Cards are code PR22.

Wishing you all a lovely summer term and an even better summer holiday when it arrives..

Shirley Clark – Sustainable Travel Officer, Herts County Council



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