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8th May 2017

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK – Monday 15th to Friday 19th May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know about some of the activities that are taking place in school to celebrate 'Walk to School Week'. We are making a particular effort to support this initiative this year as it ties in very nicely with a number of school and local priorities including: our School Council's focus on 'Sit Less, Move More'; the launch of Bicester's Healthy New Town programme (13th May); and our updated School Travel Plan.



As we said when we conducted the School Travel Survey, we appreciate that finding an alternative to travelling to school by car is not possible for all of our families due to the nature of our catchment area. Therefore, we have aimed to devise plenty of different opportunities that pupils can take part in throughout the week - whether you live 50 yards from the school or 5 miles.

Please see below for some of the activities that are taking place.

'Sit Less, Move More' Assembly – Monday 15th May

For Monday morning's collective worship, the School Council will be talking to the pupils about the many different ways that they can fit more physical activity into their daily lives. We will be watching a short film about the many benefits of leading a more active lifestyle and highlighting the ways that we are encouraging this in school.

City to Seaside – 5-day Walking Challenge – All Week



The theme for this year's Walk To School Week 5-Day Challenge is 'City to Seaside'. Every class will keep track of how many pupils manage to find an alternative to arriving by car each day and record this on a giant 'City to Seaside' sticker wall chart in their classroom. Obviously, it will not be possible for those pupils who don't live in the village to walk or cycle to school all week (if at all). If this is the case, we are making the suggestion that those families use their car for part of the journey, but park elsewhere in the village and walk the remaining distance into school. See next page for the 'Park and Stride' option on Tuesday and Thursday. Again, we appreciate that this may not be compatible with work commitments or for other

reasons, so please don't feel obliged. You are, of course, at liberty to make an adventurous walk from further afield if you have the time and inclination; in which case, we'd love to hear about your plans! House points will be available for impressive efforts.

Park and Stride – Tuesday 16th & Thursday 18th May

To give those families who live outside the village an option to join in with the week, we are going to provide a 'Park and Stride' service from the new Chesterton Community Centre on two days. All you need to do is drop your child/children off at 8.15am, where they will be met by school staff. We will then organise them into a walking bus and make our way through the village to arrive for the start of the school day. We would ask that parents leave their children with the school staff on these mornings to avoid confusion with supervision responsibilities. Please indicate on the slip below if your child/children would like to take part in this, as this will enable us to compile a register (and make sure that all children are accounted for!). Unfortunately, we won't be able to wait for late arrivals. You may want to do something similar on the other three days, or arrange to meet a family who live in the village and walk from their house.



Daily Distance – Beginning on Tuesday 16th May

Just when they thought they'd already done plenty of exercise, our Park and Striders will join the rest of the school to start the day with a fun jog/run/walk around the school field starting at 8.40am on Tuesday morning. When the bell goes at 8.50, parents will depart and the children will run for a little bit longer before starting their day. This is part of the Daily Mile initiative that you may have seen in the media. Put simply, it involves all children completing approximately one mile to increase energy, concentration and fitness levels. We will obviously make allowances for younger children and there will be plenty of older children and school staff on hand to support those who need a bit of encouragement.

We will be repeating our Daily Distance on the Friday morning (8.40am start) and then every Tuesday as a trial for the remainder of the Summer Term.

Mrs Porter, our PE Mentor, will be co-ordinating this initiative and will write to you shortly in more detail.

Mr Horner's Big Walk – Monday 15th May



Unfortunately, I may have made the bold, some would say foolish, claim that 'If Ofsted have visited before Walk to School Week, I could definitely walk to school in time for the start of the day!' Well...not being one who likes to back out of a challenge, I'd better keep my word and give it a go. Therefore, I am planning to leave home in Cassington – approximately 12 miles away – with the dawn chorus and make my way to Chesterton in time for the bell. I am hoping to record photographic evidence of my journey (just to prove I didn't call a cab!). Let's hope that I am in a fit state to do some work by the time I arrive! The gauntlet has been thrown down to other staff to see if they can take up their own challenge, so you may hear about other staff members finding interesting ways to leave their car behind...probably not Miss Regan from Moreton-in-Marsh though!

Daily Drop Off – Ongoing

Following the School Travel Survey, we are using Walk to School Week to encourage parents to use the option to drop off their children at the school gate from 8.40, where they will be supervised by school staff on the playground, rather than having to wait until the bell goes. We hope that this will help ease morning congestion and take a small amount of the parking pressure away. Year 5/6 pupils are, of course, able to walk to school independently and can therefore be dropped further afield without needing to be accompanied to the gate.



Photo Competition

To celebrate our efforts, we are inviting the children to take photos of their interesting journeys to or from school throughout the week and submit them for a competition. You could snap anything: a picture of you and granny skateboarding to school; your dog getting into the spirit of the week and accompanying your journey, a picture of your own walking bus with friends...the possibilities are endless.

Please e-mail photos to head.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk, along with a brief explanation of who or what is in the picture, by the end of the day on Friday 19th May. Winning entries will be announced the following week.

If you have any questions about Walk to School Week, please drop me an e-mail.

Kind regards,

Mr I. Horner – Headteacher

Park and Stride – Tuesday 16th & Thursday 18th May

My child in Class
would like to 'Park and Stride' on:

Tuesday 16th May

Thursday 18th May

I understand that they will need to meet in the car park of the Chesterton Community Centre at 8.15am and that they will be accompanied by school staff and supervised until the start of the school day. We will not be able to wait for late arrivals.

Signed : Date:

Please return permission slip to the school office by Friday 12th May.

