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28th May 2021

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK – Tuesday 8th to Monday 14th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

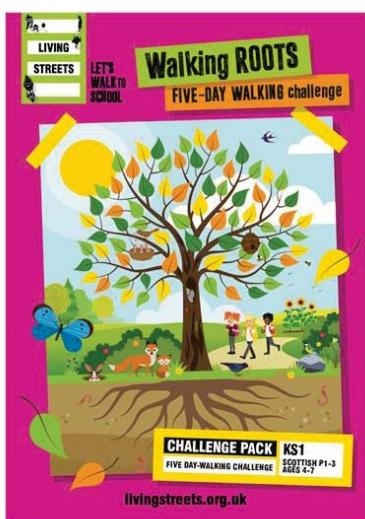
I am writing to let you know about some of the activities that are taking place in school to celebrate 'Walk to School Week'. Although the 'official' event was the 17th - 21st May, we have postponed ours until just after half term, as previous years, to avoid May Day preparations (and my paternity leave!).



As we said when we launched our Walk to School Week three years ago, 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 again aimed to offer 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.

5-day Walking Challenge – All Week



Every class will keep track of how many pupils manage to find an alternative to arriving by car each day and record this 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 **Thursday 10th** and **Monday 14th**. 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/cycle from further afield if you have the time and inclination; in which case, we'd love to hear about your plans! This has been a huge success in previous years, with walking groups setting out from different locations. House points and certificates will be available for impressive efforts.

Park and Stride – Thursday 10th & Monday 14th June



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 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 divide them into ‘bubbles’ and 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.

Mr Horner’s Big Walk – Day to be confirmed (when the weather looks nice!)



Unfortunately, after setting a precedent in past years with my walk into school, I think I should keep the tradition going. Therefore, I am planning to leave home in Cassington – approximately 14 miles – with the dawn chorus and make my way to Chesterton in time for the bell. With a newborn baby in the house, I might be escaping for some peace and quiet! I will record photographic evidence of my journey, with hopefully a glorious sunrise. If I’m feeling really keen, I might

try to walk home on the same day... or come on my bike on another day! Other staff members have also made tentative promises to join in again....!



Daily Mily – Re-starting on Tuesday 8th June

After a long absence, our Daily Mile (well, weekly mile to begin with) is back! For those of you who don’t know, it involves starting the day with a fun jog/run/walk around the school field. For now, we will split into Lower School (Maple, Beech & Ash) and Upper School (Rowan & Oak). Lower School will run on a Tuesday morning (from 8.45) and Upper School on a Friday (from 8.35). This idea behind the Daily Mile initiative stems from using morning exercise to increase energy, concentration

and fitness levels. We will obviously make allowances for younger children and there will be plenty of school staff on hand to support those who need a bit of encouragement. Children do not need special footwear or P.E. kit to take part, unless they want to come to school in their P.E. trainers, with school shoes ready to change into straight afterwards. House points will be on offer for the most enthusiastic participants.

The Great Big School Clean

We always like to hold a competition alongside Walk to School Week. This year, we are incorporating the Great Big School Clean, which also happens to be taking place at the same time. It also fits very nicely with the work of Miss Claridge and the Eco Council, who have recently received their Eco Schools Bronze Award and are looking to earn Gold as soon as we can!



"This spring, the Great Big School Clean is attempting to complete a colossal million miles of litter-picking... that's to the moon and back, twice! We are asking all participating schools to simply record the number of litter-pickers taking part and the hours and minutes they plan to spend litter-picking. Then, we will do the rest - using a slow walking pace of three miles per hour we will calculate how many miles you have pledged towards our #MillionMileMission!"

Therefore, the challenge is to complete some litter picking on your route to or from school and let us know how long you spent. If it is difficult for you to combine your walk to school with litter picking, please feel free to choose a different time during the week to complete your challenge.

For any litter picking, please remember the following:

- It is essential that any litter picking is done safely and with the approval and supervision of an adult.
- Please choose a location that doesn't put you in harm's way (e.g. not by the side of a busy road).
- Make sure that you wear the appropriate footwear, clothing and gloves.
- Please do not pick up anything if you are not sure what it is (always ask an adult if unsure).
- Avoid potentially dangerous items, such as broken glass, liquids and, obviously, dog poo!

We would also like you to bring your bag of rubbish to school, in order for us to sort and dispose of it responsibly. We will weigh all the litter to show the difference that you have made to the local environment. We would also like to see how much could be recycled.

Please e-mail details of your litter pick, along with any photos of your exploits to head.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk, by the end of the day on Tuesday 15th June. Winning entries will be judged by the Eco Council and 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 – Thursday 10th & Monday 14th June

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

- Thursday 10th June
 Monday 14th June

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 on Tuesday 8th June.