

The Journey

December 2010

'The Journey' has got a new look. This newsletter is one of the ways in which we aim to keep you informed of recent developments in sustainable school travel, road safety and improvements to the highways. We also hope you will find useful ideas, tips and hints on encouraging sustainable and active travel to your school. If you have any ideas for future issues, or questions you want answered, please contact me at: Phillip.Burke@bracknell-forest.gov.uk May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Berkshire STEP Awards – Ascot Heath Infant and St Margaret Clitherow are winners



Congratulations to Ascot Heath Infant school, this year's winners of the BIG STEP Award for the highest scoring school in Berkshire. Berkshire STEP is a self assessment reward scheme which recognises the effort some schools make in promoting safe and sustainable travel to school. Ascot Heath Infant school submitted an evidence folder which showed they had regularly included school travel themes in parent evenings, lessons and assemblies, had tried innovative ideas such as driveway sharing, scooter training, a 'wants' and 'needs' board to try and match car sharers and walk sharers, and had a strong school travel steering group which met regularly. Ascot Heath Infant is the first Bracknell Forest school to win this award.

St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary received a silver certificate for their excellent efforts throughout the year. The Healthy Schools committee discuss the school travel plan on a regular basis and they have this year set up a walking bus which runs every Tuesday to coincide with their Walk Once a Week incentive day.

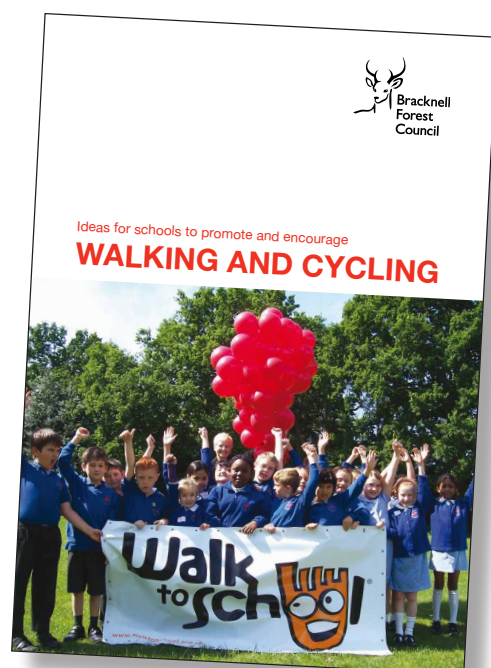
More information on the Berkshire STEP Awards can be found on the School Travel Plan pages of the council web site.

Walking and Cycling Guide

Last year we produced a guide containing lots of ideas for encouraging more walking and cycling.

The guide explains in simple terms what you need to do to implement a variety of ideas including incentive awards, classroom activities, whole school projects and schemes specifically for those whose most realistic option is to come by car.

Copies were sent to all schools in the borough, but if you would like additional copies please contact us.



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Travel to School Census data

In January all schools submit a census return, which includes a question about mode of travel to school for each pupil. You may be wondering how this travel choice data is used.

The answer is that it is used in lots of different ways;

- it is used to report against national indicator 198, a government target for the mode of travel to school for all pupils aged 5 to 16
- it is used to measure how effective our combined efforts are in encouraging sustainable travel to school and to identify which schools need most help
- the data is converted into maps for each school to help you understand where your pupils live and the travel choices they make, and to help us target our highways improvements where they will have the most benefit
- we also produce a "School Travel Health Check" for your school which will give you a breakdown of walking, cycling and car use at your school
- this year, the census data will be used for a competition to find the most sustainably travelling school in Bracknell Forest

The really good news is that use of the car has fallen again, while walking levels have risen. A really big thank you to everyone who has helped promote sustainable travel to school.

The mode of travel to school results can be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/env-school-travel-plans.htm>

Bikeability

Successful application for funding has meant that 'Bikeability' cycle training will again be offered to Bracknell schools. Your school should have received information on our new cycle training provider 'Cycle Experience' <http://www.cycleexperience.com>

For more information contact Sarah Field on 01344 351212

Dates for your diary 2011

Walk to Work Week April 2011

Visit <http://www.walkingworks.org.uk/>

Walk to School Week 16 – 20 May 2011

Visit <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/env-walk-to-school-week.htm> for ideas

Green Transport Week June 2011

Visit http://www.eta.co.uk/green_transport_week

Bike Week June 2011

Visit <http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/> and <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/env-cyclists/env-bike-week.htm>

Road Safety

Road safety messages delivered to every child by the Road Safety Team in one day is proving a success. The 'Road Safety Day' sets up in the school hall, specifically designed sessions are delivered to every year group. Periods of time range from 15 minutes for Reception classes to 50 minutes for years 5 and 6 (times are flexible). Schools are also encouraged to invite parents along. For more information contact the Road Safety Team on road.safetyetp@bracknell-forest.gov.uk



Safer Routes to School

The council has a budget for improvements to the highway infrastructure which will benefit safe and sustainable travel to school. Improvements may be right outside the school gate, or further away on a popular route to the school. It could be something simple like dropped kerbs to make it easier for pushchairs to cross the road right up to a traffic calmed 20mph zone.

Schools are prioritised according to a range of criteria including commitment to the school travel plan, history of accidents, potential for more non-car modes of travel, a risk assessment of the school gate area, and uptake of road safety education.

Recently completed works have included a footway widening on Crowthorne Road, parking restrictions on the approach to Ranelagh Secondary school, anti-skid surfacing at the school crossing patrol site on Reeds Hill and a new section of footway on Hanworth Road.

Our Safer Routes to School engineer is currently working on a number of proposals for schools which are at the top of the priority list.



School Travel Plan Reviews

Keeping your School Travel Plan up to date, and making sure you implement the measures it contains, are key to sustaining the decline in car use which cause so many problems around the school gate. The Plans are also a useful tool for the council when identifying highway improvements we can make.

To make the review as simple as possible, we have reduced the template we use to just two sides of A4, and some of this is pre-populated for you. If your School Travel Plan is overdue for a review, please contact Phil Burke and ask for a review template.

Spotlight – in each newsletter we will focus on a school and show how they are promoting sustainable travel. In this edition we are looking at St Michael’s Easthampstead Primary.

St Michael’s Easthampstead Primary has been very successful in increasing walking and cycling to school over the last few years. Since the travel to school question was first introduced into the spring census in January 2007, walking levels have increased from 44% of pupils to 60% this year. There has been a corresponding decrease in car use from 49% down to 32%. This has largely been achieved through sustained focus on travel issues whenever possible, an active school council and the enthusiasm of the STP ‘champion’ Allison Cleverly.

As an example, for those that can’t walk to school on a regular basis, family walks have been set up after school on a Friday afternoon. Walks to nearby Mill Pond and South Hill Park have culminated in picnics and games for the children. Children were also given nature ‘spotter’ sheets to look for wildlife as they walked.

Cycling is also so popular at the school the newly installed cycle sheds are already oversubscribed.

Contact us:

If you have any questions, queries or news, please contact:
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