



Issue 4 – Autumn Term Newsletter 2024

Welcome to our 4th active travel newsletter for schools.

We hope you find these newsletters useful and please feel free to circulate any of these articles within your own newsletters.

If you would like any further information or support, please contact the team by email at sustainabletravelplanning@shropshire.gov.uk

We would love to hear from you.

Andrea, Vicky and James

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Road Safety Education – Our Journey

Our Journey is Shropshire Council's brand-new *free* active travel and road safety education programme for primary school pupils aged 4 to 11 years old on offer from the end of September 2024. The programme entirely replaces the Stepping Out pedestrian training initiative.

A suite of digital video lessons and accompanying resources tailored to specific year groups will guide pupils on a graduated behaviour change programme throughout their time at primary school with the aim of encouraging them to make safer and more active journeys. Students will be taught essential safety skills through a mix of storytelling featuring student-designed characters, instructor presentations and teacher-led activities.

The digital video lessons will allow teachers greater flexibility to deliver the programme at an appropriate time around existing curricular priorities.

Reception and Year 1

The first lesson focuses on teaching students the basic road safety code (walk, think, stop, look, listen) and holding hands with their grown-up message through the new 'Tom and Mary's Journey to School' story. Teachers will lead an interactive session after encouraging students to learn the code through games.

Year 2 and 3

Film under development – available from Spring 2025.

Year 4 and 5

Film under development – available from Spring 2025.

Year 6

Our year six workshop focuses on the transition to secondary school and provides key safety advice to students on the new journeys they may make. Teachers will lead the session through a workbook and an exercise to help students plan a journey.

Participating schools will need to nominate an Active Travel staff lead to work with the Sustainable Travel Team who will provide latest information, support and guidance.

How you can join the programme

To express your interest in joining the Our Journey programme and to find more about how Modeshift STARS can help your school, please contact James for further information at sustainabletravelplanning@shropshire.gov.uk

Active Travel Grants update

Twenty-four Shropshire schools are to receive a grant to help encourage children to cycle, walk or scoot to and from school using funding awarded to Shropshire Council from Active Travel England. All schools in the council's area were invited to apply for up to £1,000 to spend on active travel initiatives.

Applications were received from schools across the county and the funding has now been awarded for the following:

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- scooter and bike racks.
- to purchase scooters and bikes to lend to pupils.
- to purchase helmets and safety equipment.
- to purchase hi-viz jackets.
- scooter training.
- buying maintenance kits or booking Dr Bike sessions.

Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for children and education, said:

"I'm delighted that we been able to award this funding to schools from across the county to help increase the number of children travelling to school by foot, by bike or by scooter. Walking or wheeling to school is a great way for children to keep fit and stay healthy. It also helps to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads near schools, so helps to keep children safe too.

"Thank you to all the schools who applied. I can't wait to see the impact of their schemes, and we're looking forward to working with even more schools in the future."

Safety information from our partners.....

As we move into a new term along with the darker nights, two of our colleague organisations have issued useful information that you could share with parents:

West Mercia Police

Please be mindful at drop-off and pick-up times as these are busy outside schools. This can cause an increased safety risk to both children and parents. Parking restrictions outside schools are there to keep you and your children safe. Parking inconsiderately can put people in danger and you also risk being fined for highway offences.

Safety tips for parking outside schools

When picking up or dropping off children at schools, you should do the following:

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.
- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.
- If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or access ways.

Understanding yellow zigzag markings

Most school entrances and exits in the UK have yellow zigzag road markings with the writing 'School Keep Clear'.

Zigzags can also be found at entrances and exits of hospitals, fire stations, police stations and ambulance stations. They indicate the part of the road where motorists should not wait, stop, or park a vehicle.

Sometimes there may be an accompanying sign that shows specific times when these restrictions are in place. Motorists are legally allowed to park on the zigzags outside of these hours.

Both yellow and white zigzags also show areas that must be kept clear so that children and other road users can see clearly when crossing the road.

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National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

What age can a child come home from school alone?

There's no legal age that your child can travel home from school alone – this is up to you and your best judgement, or your school's rules and policies. However, you should never leave a child alone who isn't ready or is unable to care for themselves – learn more about [leaving children home alone](#).

Every child is different – but some schools advise children under 8 shouldn't walk home without an adult or older sibling.

If you and your child do feel they're ready to come home alone, it helps to go over some rules about staying safe.

- Make sure they know their address and your telephone number by heart, in case they get lost or have to navigate home from somewhere new.
- If they have a mobile phone, remind them to fully charge it before leaving the house, and make sure they have all your contact numbers saved.
- Talk to them about road safety. They should always look both ways before crossing the street, and never be on their phone whilst crossing a road.
- Remind them never to accept a lift from someone they don't know, or let a stranger into the house. They should never give personal information away – in real life or online.
- Remind them that if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, they can call you or a trusted adult.
- If they ever feel like they're in immediate danger, they should call the police straight away on 999.

There are lots of other information on the NSPCC on the website about safety and other parental advice - www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/away-from-home/at-school.

Shropshire Summer Scootability Campaign



Shropshire Council was awarded £174,026 from Active Travel England's Capability Fund in March 2024 to support new schemes to encourage more people to take up active travel such as walking and cycling in the county. Following on from a bid-preparing exercise, £5,500 was awarded to organise a scooter training campaign across the county which took place from 26 to 30 August 2024.

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Team Rubicon, a nationwide provider of scootering, cycling and skateboarding training and who have previously delivered similar work in Shropshire, were approached in April 2024 to deliver this campaign. The company supply all equipment in sessions including scooters, helmets, and knee and arm pads.

Venues across the county were selected based on proximity to local communities, on-site accessible facilities, and appropriate space for training. Three sessions per day were organised at Shrewsbury Sports Village, Maurice Chandler Sports and Leisure Centre near Market Drayton, Teme Leisure Centre Ludlow, Idsall Sports Centre in Shifnal and Gobowen Pavilion & Playing Field.

Children had the opportunity to take their Level 1 Scootability training. The Level 1 course starts with the basic skills of balancing, turning, and braking before moving on to narrow pavements, moving obstacles and one-handed signalling. Three sessions per day were available with each lasting 90 minutes. A total of 346 children signed up to receive training during the campaign week.



Is your school taking part? – if so, let us know and share your photographs with us

TravelWise Week is Modeshift's yearly, global, week-long travel challenge. **Could you #TravelWisely and walk, wheel or ride more during modeshift TravelWise Week?**




Taking place between **16-22 September** each year, TravelWise Week coincides with [European Mobility Week](#) to promote active travel, public transport and other cleaner and healthier transport choices, where everyone is encouraged to walk, wheel or ride. The theme this year is [Shared Public Space](#).

For more information, a pledge to sign up to and all the resources you need, follow this link [Modeshift TravelWise Week – Modeshift – Sustainable Travel](#)

If it is too short notice, what about participating in one of the other national campaigns coming up.....

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Annual Campaign Days 2024/25

Calendar of events	
Activity Name & Description	Resources
<p>Walk on Weds / Walk once Week 'WOW' <i>Ongoing</i></p>  <p>Encourage pupils, parents/carers and staff to walk once a week or walk on Wednesdays to & from school.</p>	<p>https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/wow</p>
 <p>bus users Catch the Bus Month! <i>September 2024</i></p>	<p>Catch the Bus Month • Bus Users</p>
 <p>Sustrans 'Bike to School Week' <i>Late September 2024</i></p>	<p>https://www.sustrans.org.uk/campaigns/bike-to-school-week-pledge</p>
 <p>Living Streets World Car Free Day (one off activity) <i>Late September 2024</i></p>	<p>https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/about-us/our-work-in-action/world-car-free-day</p>
 <p>Living Streets Walk to School Month <i>October 2024</i></p>	<p>International Walk to School Month Living Streets</p>
<p>Brake Road Safety Week <i>November 2024</i></p>  <p>Road Safety Week takes place in November. It's Brake's biggest road safety campaign. Each year has a theme.</p>	<p>https://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week</p>

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 <p>Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2024 <i>March / April 2025 TBC</i></p>	https://bigwalkandwheel.org.uk/
 <p>Living Streets Walk to School Week <i>May 2025</i> School organises a 'Walk to School Week'</p>	www.livingstreets.org.uk
 <p>Clean Air Day 2025 <i>June 2025</i></p>	https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/about-clean-air-day
<p>Brake Kids Walk <i>June 2025</i></p>  <p>Every year, thousands of schoolchildren aged 4–11 take part in Brake's Kids Walk – a short, supervised walk to share important road safety messages.</p>	<p>Information and resources available at: https://www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/professionals/teachers-and-youth-workers/brake-s-kids-walk</p>



TOP TIP !

Participating in any of these events, ticks many boxes towards accreditation – one campaign counts as:

- An entry in the newsletter
- Planning the event
- Delivery of the event
- Working around why this is important
- School council / eco council involvement
- Communications / press

Remember to take photographs, and send these and copies of newsletters etc and we'll input it into Modeshift for you.

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