



# The March CE Primary School

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN NEWSLETTER – April 2015

**Welcome to the first of what we hope to be an occasional School Travel Plan newsletter.**

We are currently reviewing the existing Travel Plan but in case you are not aware, our main goals are:

- Reduce congestion and relieve parking issues around the school to make school drop off and collection easier and safer for all.
- Encourage active travel, where possible, for the health and well-being of children.

As you are no doubt aware the parking at drop off and pick times causes us and many families great concern regarding safety, so we are constantly looking for ways in which we can improve the situation. It is not easy, and we need your help and understanding to improve the sometimes dangerous behaviours along Claypit Lane.

We urge you not to park on the double yellow lines as this is a criminal offence. The double yellow lines and the crossing point are there for a reason. The parking enforcement officers will patrol over time and will issue tickets, especially if blocking the designated crossing point.

We appreciate that the parking space we have is limited and difficult so we have been considering a number of ideas to try and limit car usage and provide some alternatives and ensure the school areas are safe.

We have identified a number of ideas that we would welcome your thoughts on whether they would be of use to you and how often you may use them. Some of the ideas will need commitment in terms of volunteers to help run so we are seeking to understand not only whether you could make use of them, but whether you could assist at all, whether volunteering or perhaps financial contribution if it came to that?

In considering how to develop the travel ideas we have put together a small survey to gauge your views on some options and possible take up if we are to go ahead with one or more of the options.

We very much need your views to help us develop a realistic Travel Plan that helps us improve the school and in turn helps us obtain key funding to enable the change.

We hope to have the survey available next week, and would like as many responses as possible. We will use the results to help shape the Travel Plan and publish a draft travel plan for you to consider.

We have a number of parents and school staff working on a number of activities but if you feel you would like to get involved, and have some ideas of further a work or activity please let us know. We will provide further information as we progress so please keep an eye on our website.



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## What is happening now?

Bike It in The March has been going full swing over the past term with Matti Hemmings Stunt Show, weekly after school Bike Clubs, the Big Street Survey in Yrs 5 and 6, and of course The Big Pedal - where The March is achieving an average of 9.9% of pupils cycling or scooting into school each day. Let's keep this up! The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer, and summer is on the way - whether it is cycling to school, scooting to a friend's house or exploring the great outdoors, we want to see as many kids and their families be active, healthy, and safe... and have fun! We are just finalising the Summer Term activities, but you can be sure that we will have lots of great things going on, including the possibility of a Cycle Safari on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. So keep your eyes and ears tuned for more information! ~ Keep on Rolling!

Phil, Bike It Officer for Chichester and Horsham

School Champions: Ashley Hatton, Hugh Campkin, Chris Hicks

And don't forget the Sustrans Superhero Challenge to complete. All children had the Mission Books early in the term so hopefully these are getting nicely full of ticks and points.

Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme is now kicking off with some willing children volunteering to be our first officers!



## What is the Role of a JRSO?

JRSO is an excellent way to engage with pupils and encourage them to be involved in their school and local community. Besides promoting road safety it enables them to participate in the development and maintenance of a school travel plan. The scheme is informative and fun.

## Who are JRSOs and what do they do?

Rory Mitchell and Oscar Reynolds (Year 5) are our representatives.

Their main duties will be to:

- Design and maintain a road safety notice board.
- Run competitions in school.
- Help the Road Safety Officers to promote the Walk to School campaigns.
- Promote road safety to the rest of the school and raise awareness to parents and the local community.
- Provide an important link between the school and WSCC Road Safety Team.



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## The 'Living Streets' Walk Once a Week (WoW) scheme!

WOW encourages pupils and parents to walk all or part of the way to school and will launch this term. Pupils who walk, Park and Stride (park away from the gates and walk the final 5-10 minutes), cycle, scoot, or travel by bus/train at least once a week every month will earn a snazzy badge! Every month there is a different badge to be won!

To launch the scheme Living Streets staff came to assembly yesterday with the Mascot, Strider!

The initiative is being delivered by Living Streets, the national charity that works to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, in association with West Sussex County Council and is funded by the Department for Transport.



## Cycling to school - why not?

Parents obviously decide how their children will travel to school. Some parents and their children very much enjoy cycling to school on some days. To help other parents, who may wish to consider this possibility, these parents have identified three cycling routes which cover 75% of where The March School children actually live. The routes have been planned to avoid busy roads. These three routes that can be found on the school website and the parent sponsors, who cycle the routes regularly, have provided their contact details so that any other parents wishing to try cycling into school may join them. We have a route from Oving via Tangmere with a Year R parent sponsor, a route from Whyke Road via Portfield with a Year 3 parent sponsor and a route from near the Hospital for which we are seeking a parent sponsor.

Any questions or help please contact:

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