



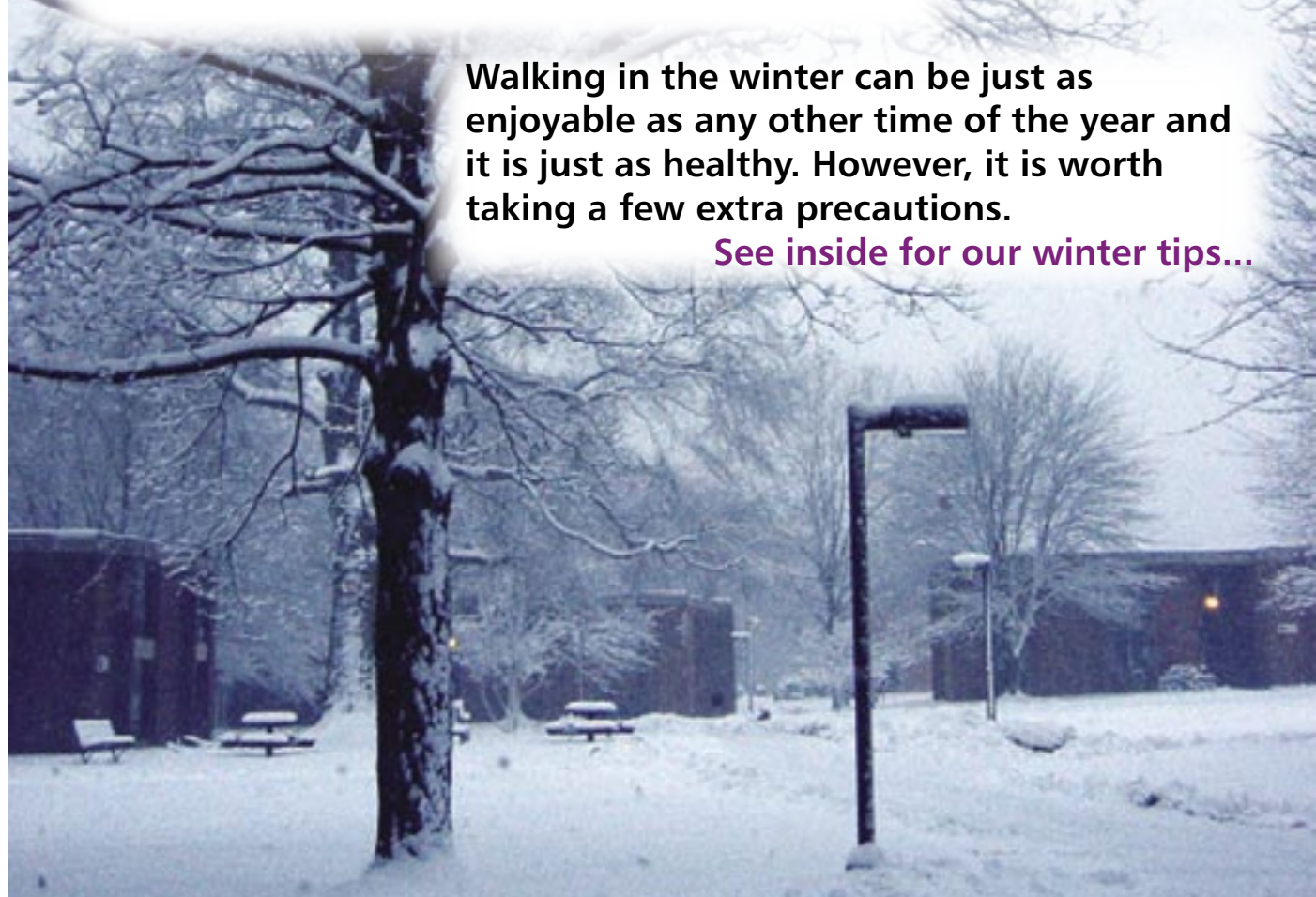
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Norfolk School Travel Plan Newsletter

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Walking in the winter can be just as enjoyable as any other time of the year and it is just as healthy. However, it is worth taking a few extra precautions.

See inside for our winter tips...



Welcome to the second edition of School Travel Plan News

IN THIS EDITION you will find lots of useful information about the work that schools in Norfolk are doing to reduce car use on the school journey. Don't miss our invitation

to the School Travel Plan Awards – it will be a fantastic opportunity to meet other schools working on travel plans and to celebrate what you are doing.

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Walking in a Winter Wonderland

- Wrap up in warm comfortable clothing.
 - We recommend wearing hats instead of hoods that restrict your sight.
 - Wearing earmuffs or using personal stereos will lessen your road awareness.
 - Wear sturdy shoes or boots with a good grip.
 - Wear something reflective to make it easier for others to see you.
 - Wherever possible cross the road near a lamppost when it is dark.
 - If the ground is icy, use short steps instead of long strides.
 - Give cars extra time to stop especially when it is wet or icy - if it has snowed, drivers will not be able to see stop lines or the edges of the road.
- To encourage more parents and pupils to walk to school, you could:
- Set up a Walk on Wednesday campaign.
 - Set up class competitions to see who has the most walkers. The school could fund raise and use pedometers to find out which class can walk the furthest.
 - Provide fluorescent jackets and reflective goods to improve children's safety.
 - Get pupils to write a winter diary about what they see on the school route and what the weather is like. They can then compare the seasons throughout the year.
 - Have an umbrella and welly competition when it rains!



Steppers Success

In the last newsletter we told you about the Walking Zones project being piloted in 12 Norfolk schools. Walking zones promotes walking to school by providing children and parents with route maps to school. Children who walk earn a stamp in their Steppers passport and are rewarded with badges when the passports are full.

Arden Grove First School started its Walking Zones project in September and it is working well. Parent Sophia Grimshaw said: "This is a very good scheme. It is excellent exercise and wakes the children up in the morning. The traffic isn't so congested outside the school and safety has improved."

Assistant headteacher Claire

Hannant said: "There are now more children walking to school and it has reduced congestion outside the school. The only slight problem we have had is that some of the parking has shifted to other



roads. We hope that the residents further afield appreciate that it is only for a short period of time and it is making a real difference to the health and safety of our children."

The aim of Walking Zones is to lessen the impact of parking outside schools and encourage walking. Some schools have found it helpful to work on a parent parking policy to ensure that they are aware of safe places to park.

Before Steppers 78 out of 181 pupils walked to Arden Grove First and that number has now risen to 140. That's an increase of 80 per cent!

All the schools piloting the Walking Zones scheme have shown an increase in walking to their schools.

Norfolk County Council wants more schools to join in the Walking Zones scheme and will be launching a new set of Steppers Schools in the summer term. So if you are interested, please get in touch.



News Update

- **Terrington St. Clement Community School** reported an impressive 200 children walking to school on International Walk to School Day - 6 October 2004.
- **The School Council of Swanton Abbott Community Primary School** is writing the travel plan for the school.
- Pupils from **Catton Grove Middle School** are to help pupils from the First School complete their travel surveys. The schools have welcomed this opportunity to encourage better relationships between older and younger children.
- **Astley Primary School** was the first to use the new assembly resource pack developed for Norfolk schools, with special features for car share and bus use



Astley Primary School pupils with the assembly resource pack

as the message for green travel. The result - more pupils joining the Steppers initiative.

Bike to School Week Competition

Bike to school week is from 18 - 22 April 2005.

To promote this Norfolk County Council is holding a competition to design an A4 flyer or poster to promote cycling to school.

Broxap have generously donated prizes of cycle storage and lockers that will be awarded to the winning school in each age category 5-8 years, 8-12 years and 12-18 years.

We welcome entries from all schools limited to a maximum of one entry from each year group.

Please could your school send in entries by Friday 11th March to School Travel Plans, Portacabin 1, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2SG.

Children from **Cecil Gowing Primary** were helped with their travel to school surveys by four high school pupils on work experience. The former Cecil Gowing pupils helped 225 under 7s complete their travel to school survey - another good example of how travel planning can help to build better community spirit by strengthening bonds between neighbouring schools.

● **Aldborough Primary and Colby Primary Eco Committees** have taken over the travel to school initiatives at their schools, bringing fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm to the promotion of sustainable travel to school. The pupils will be piloting a car share project that involves paring up families who live on the same route to school. The schools are also holding competitions to design car stickers to show they are part of the car share club.

● The School Travel Plan group at **Kelling Primary** will be looking into a park and ride scheme to encourage more pupils to come to school by bus. This will involve three main bus pick up points in the area where parents can see their children safely onto the bus. Parents are keen to draw up a rota to ensure that one parent accompanies the bus each day to ensure good behaviour.

● **30 schools** who completed their travel plans in March 2004 have spent their extra **Devolved Formula Capital** funding on cycle storage, making a really strong commitment to making a change for the better. From this school councils are involved in writing Cycling policies and planning safer routes into school. These activities are being supported by valuable training from road safety officers.

An Invitation

We would like to invite you to celebrate the work schools are doing to improve safety on the school journey and encourage more people to walk and cycle to school.

**The Norfolk School Travel Plan Awards
25th May 2005 2 – 4pm
Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich**

All schools that are working on school travel plans will receive a bronze, silver or gold certificate depending on the stage of the travel plan.

There will be prizes of £250 for the schools that have:

Best walking initiative

Best cycling initiative

Greatest commitment to encouraging people to walk and cycle to school

The awards will be held from 2 – 4pm on Wednesday 25th May during Walk to School week. We would like to invite schools to send two representatives to receive the awards and listen to brief talks from schools who have implemented some great ideas and have success stories to share.

There will be a chance to look round displays and chat to people from other schools in Norfolk about what they are doing.

Please RSVP to schooltravelplan@norfolk.gov.uk, or call the school travel plan office to book your seat.

School Travel Plan Update

Congratulations to Bawdeswell Community Primary School, Burston Community Primary School, Colby Primary School, Drake Infant School and Nursery, Earsham First School, Greyfriars Primary School, Kelling Primary School, Mundford Primary School, Thurlton Primary School and Tivetshall Primary School who all managed to complete their travel plans before Christmas. A further 62 schools have completed their travel surveys and are now finishing their Travel Plans.

New Year's Resolution Walk off your Christmas pounds

Encourage pupils, parents (and even teachers) to walk to school. It's great exercise. The school could introduce 'Walk a day a week' to incorporate walking into your school culture.

Dates for your Calendar

24 March 2005 –

Last date to get your Travel Plan in this financial year

18 – 22 April 2005 –

National Bike to School Week

23 – 27 May 2005 –

National Walk to School Week

25 May 2005 –

Norfolk School Travel Awards Day

11 – 19 June 2005 –

Green Transport Week



Still haven't got a travel plan?

If your school is experiencing problems with congestion or road safety, or if you are interested in promoting more walking and cycling, writing a school travel plan can help make a real difference.

Contact details

If you would like further information, please contact the team at Norfolk County Council

North: Josie Barnett –
01603 224205

East: Emma Luxford –
01603 638083

West: Ian Sankey –
01603 638082

South: Mark Ogden –
01603 638081

Email:
schooltravelplan@norfolk.gov.uk

Area maps and lots of information can be found on our **website:**
www.schooltravelplan.net/norfolk