



Chesterton CE Primary School  
Alchester Road  
Chesterton  
BICESTER  
Oxfordshire  
OX26 1UN

Telephone: 01869 252498

Fax: 01869 244012

Email: [office.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk)

Website: [www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

## WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for the late sending of this letter – it's been busy in school this week!

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 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May, we have postponed ours until just after half term, as previously, because there was already a lot going on with our May Day celebrations!



As we said when we launched our Walk to School Week many 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.

### Living Streets – The Great Space Walk



Each day there will be a different theme and every class will keep track of how many pupils manage to find an alternative to arriving by car each day. This will be recorded on a giant sticker wall chart 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 **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**. 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 – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 new 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 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 – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (if the weather looks nice!)



It has been a while since I have managed to complete my very own walk to school, so I think it's about time that I restarted the tradition! 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. I will record photographic evidence of my journey. If I'm feeling really keen, I might try to walk home on another day that week. Other staff members have also made tentative

promises to join in again....!

## Daily Drop Off – Ongoing

We are using Walk to School Week to encourage parents to use the option to drop off their children on the school playground from **8.40**, where they will be supervised by school staff on the playground, rather than having to wait until the bell goes. We hope that this will help ease morning congestion and take a small amount of the parking pressure away. Year 5/6 pupils are, of course, able to walk to school independently and can therefore be dropped further afield without needing to be accompanied to the gate. On **Tuesday**, our Morning Run will continue and I'd like to thank parents for helping us with encouraging all our pupils to make an active start to the day.

## Photo Competition

To celebrate our efforts, we are inviting the children to take photos of their interesting journeys to or from school throughout the week and submit them for a competition. One of the other initiatives this year is 'Happy Shoesday', which involves wearing your favourite pair of shoes (as long as they're suitable and an adult says that it's ok!) for your walk to school. **Happy Shoesday** will be on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** and any children who wear their favourite shoes for their journey to school will be able to wear them throughout the day instead of their school shoes. Any photos of you walking to school in your shoes will earn bonus points for the competition!



For the rest of the week, you could snap anything: a picture of you and granny skateboarding to school; your dog getting into the spirit of the week and accompanying your journey, a picture of your own walking bus with friends...the possibilities are endless. **Please e-mail photos to [head.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk), along with a brief explanation of who or what is in the picture, by the end of the day on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June.** Winning entries will be 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

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**Park and Stride – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

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

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 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: .....

*If your child is planning to attend on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, please email the school office in advance so we know who to expect.*

