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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

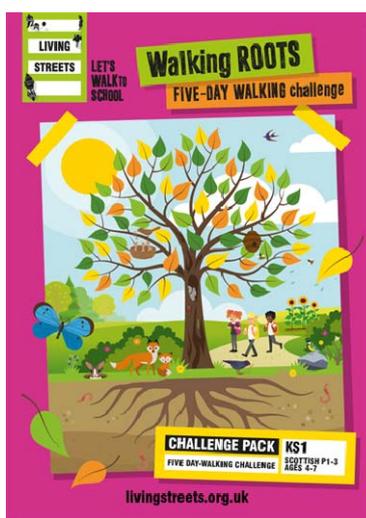
I am writing to let you know about some of the activities that are taking place in school to celebrate 'Walk to School Week'. Although the 'official' event is the 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May, we are postponing ours until just after half term, as there are already so many activities planned for next week – KS1 SATs, Upper School cricket, May Day and school photos to name but a few.



As we said when we launched our Walk to School Week last year, 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.

### Walking ROOTS – 5-day Walking Challenge – All Week



The theme for this year's Walk To School Week 5-Day Challenge is 'Walking Roots'. Every class will keep track of how many pupils manage to find an alternative to arriving by car each day and record this 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 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday 11<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 was a huge success last year, with walking groups setting out from different locations. House points and certificates will be available for impressive efforts.

### Park and Stride – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> & Monday 11<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 – Day to be confirmed (when the weather looks nice!)



Unfortunately, after setting a precedent last year with my walk into school, I think I should keep the tradition going. Therefore, I am planning to leave home in Cassington – approximately 14 miles away I've now discovered – with the dawn chorus and make my way to Chesterton in time for the bell. I will record photographic evidence of my journey, with hopefully a few more sunny shots than last year. If I'm feeling really keen, I might try to walk home again on the same day...! Other staff members have made

tentative promises to join in again (after Mrs Leonard and Miss Mansfield's example last year) and Mrs Durham has suggested that she could walk from her new house in Bicester!

### Daily Drop Off – Ongoing

We are using Walk to School Week to encourage parents to use the option to drop off their children at the school gate 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 and Friday, 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 on their interesting journeys to or from school throughout the week and submit them for a competition. As the focus this year is on *Walking Roots*, we are asking for entries that include something from the natural world that you spotted on the way. It could be a beautiful view, an interesting plant or tree, some wildlife..... anything that you might not have noticed and appreciated had you been in the car.



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 12<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 – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> & Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June

My child ..... in ..... Class

would like to 'Park and Stride' on:

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Monday 11<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: .....

*Please return permission slip to the school office by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May.*

