

Road Safety Education Newsletter Summer 2025

Rolling into Summer: Let's Keep Moving!

As the school year winds down and the sunshine stretches longer into the evenings, it's the perfect time to celebrate how we move, actively and sustainably. Whether it's walking, cycling, scooting, or rolling to school, children and their families have shown what's possible when we trade four wheels for two (or sometimes just two feet!).

Active travel isn't just about getting from A to B—it's about fresh air before the first lesson, building independence, staying healthy, and doing our bit for the planet. And let's not forget the friends we make along the way. This term, we've seen the smiling faces of children powering along, weaving through parks, striding along the pavements and parking bikes and scooters with pride.

With summer holidays approaching, let's keep that momentum going. Could you plan a walking adventure with your family? Try cycling to your local library? The habits we build now can lead to a lifetime of joyful, active living.

Here's to a summer of sunshine, movement, and making memories, step by step and day by day.



Cambridgeshire's Award - Winning School Travel STARS



As of the latest update in Spring 2025, **31 schools in Cambridgeshire have achieved Modeshift STARS accreditation**. With a further 25 submitting their travel plans to Modeshift this summer, which is solid step toward more sustainable school travel across the county.

Did you know that walking, cycling, or scooting to school can be the first step toward national recognition? That's exactly what Modeshift STARS is all about a free national awards scheme that celebrates schools making active, safe, and sustainable travel a priority.

Here in Cambridgeshire more and more schools are embracing the challenge, working together to cut congestion at the school gates, improve air quality, and boost pupil wellbeing. The best part? Every small step counts. From promoting "Walk to School Week" to starting a cycling club or surveying how pupils travel these everyday actions build toward meaningful change.

And recognition doesn't just feel good it inspires others. Schools that achieve Modeshift STARS accreditation proudly display their badges of honour and join a growing network of champions for greener travel.

So, if your school has not joined, why not take part in Cambridgeshire's STARS programme. Because every journey we transform is a win for our health, our community, and our planet. Contact our team for more information: road.safety@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Please mark your e-mail **STARS**

Huge congratulations to Barnabas Oley C of E Primary School who have received the Cambridgeshire School Travel Stars award this term. The award is given to a school that the Road Safety Team in Cambridgeshire recognise as having made significant efforts in increasing active, safer, sustainable travel to school. The amount of work they and the JTA's did to promote and support this during the school year led to their school being chosen for the award.

We are absolutely thrilled to have achieved Modeshift Local Authority School of the year for our travel plan. We are committed to sustainable and active travel, always encouraging the children to cycle, walk or scoot At Barnabas Oley we have embedded our school travel plan in the curriculum; It's part of everyday life! We were delighted to receive our award.

Michelle Downes

Headteacher

Barnabas Oley
CofE Primary
School



Junior Travel Ambassadors



It has been another fabulous year working with the Junior Travel Ambassadors around the county. This year we had 157 Junior Travel Ambassadors who have been promoting road safety and active travel in their school community and what a huge difference they make!

They have most recently promoted the national “Walk to School Week” campaign, doing assemblies, having “Happy Shoes Day”, running competitions and giving out cards, stickers and prizes.

The culmination of a wonderful year with the JTA’s is the Annual Celebration Event where JTA’s from schools across the county come together to meet up and share ideas and activities. Everyone had a wonderful time, massive thanks to all of the JTA’s across the county for all their work and dedication.



JTA’s enjoying the Annual Celebration Event

Some Highlights From This Year

Producing raps! “Ziggy Zaggy Lines” and sending out a bespoke video giving important messages to drivers about where and why they can’t park by the school.

Fantastic fun assemblies led by the JTA’s (much better than teachers do!)

Creating top trump road safety cards

Talking to the reception children about the importance of holding hands and wearing their seatbelt.

Using Speed cameras to provide evidence of the dangers by the school.

“Wheelie Whacky Wednesday” at Robert Arkenstall

Wheelie Wacky Wednesday, decorating bikes and scooters as part of The Big Walk and Wheel.

JTA’s, working in partnership with local businesses and their Parish Councils,

Bar Hill are the first (as far as we know) to create a Junior Parish Council as a result of the JTA’s working with the Parish Council.



Creating parking away from school schemes and using fun initiatives and prizes to drivers as an incentive. Park & Stride is the way to cut school gate congestion!

The Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs) have had a standout year in 2025, championing road safety and sustainable travel across schools across the County. Here are some more of their impressive achievements. These projects show how JTAs blend creativity, leadership, and community spirit to make travel safer, greener, and more fun. Thank you JTA's 24/25, it has been brilliant working with you! I'm looking forward to meeting the new JTA's in September! *Maree Richards, JTA Lead,*



JTA's at Elsworth primary, in conjunction with a local farm café, now have parking away from their school. During the launch, JTA's gave out raffle tickets to parents who parked here then walked to school, for a chance to win an ice cream or coffee!

Cheveley Primary JTA's have focused on the parking problems they have at the school.

They did a banner competition and also created a great video which was sent out to all parents/carers to remind them of the dangers of parking by the school entrance and on the zig zag and double yellow lines.



The JTA's at Gt Abington have been learning all about speed and stopping distances

"We marked the playground out using cones and plan to produce a more permanent representation of stopping distances to educate parents and carers as well as the children"



Bar Hill JTA's gave their first nomination of the JTA shield award to Mr Tabram who always travels to school by bike and is a great role model wearing a helmet to keep himself safe.



Mr Egg Head, teaching the importance of wearing a helmet!

JTA's at Littleport teaching KS1 the Green Cross Code

For more information please contact Road Safety Officer

maree.richards@cambridgeshire.gov.uk





The Active Travel Ambassador Project in Cambridgeshire

The **Active Travel Ambassador (ATA) project** is a brilliant initiative that empowers secondary school students to become champions for safer, healthier, and more sustainable travel in their school communities. The project has just started in Cambridgeshire and currently four schools are taking part in the pilot project, which was offered to Cambridgeshire by Modeshift as the Road Safety Team in the county hold Modeshift Membership.

The schools currently taking part are St Bede's Interchurch Academy, Wisbech Grammar School, Cromwell Academy and Impington Village College. Places for the pilot project were awarded on a first come first served basis and we hope to offer more secondary schools the opportunity to join this exciting initiative in the autumn term. Many teachers appreciate how the programme gives students real-world leadership experience. Watching pupils identify local travel issues, design campaigns, and pitch their ideas at events like *Campaign Junction* is both inspiring and empowering. It shifts the classroom dynamic, students become problem-solvers and advocates, not just learners.

At the start of the project students take part in workshops guided by their Modeshift Officer, and develop leadership and public speaking skills, with the aim of effectively pitching their ideas at the *Campaign Junction* event, where they can win funding to bring their projects to life. The event is a kind of *Dragons' Den* for student-led travel campaigns. This is how it works:

Secondary school students who've been guided as Active Travel Ambassadors by their Modeshift Officer pitch their ideas to a panel of experts including transport professionals, and sustainability advocates.

The goal? To secure funding (typically up to £200) to bring their campaigns to life. These might include walking competitions, safer crossings, or creative awareness campaigns. Congratulations to the student Active Travel Ambassadors (ATAs) of Impington Village College on a successful campaign presentation. They pitched their ideas to an expert panel and have been awarded £200 to help increase and promote active travel to school. They have decided to do active travel form group competitions, spot prizes and even created a video on road safety.

The project is run by a dedicated Modeshift Officer and is funded by Active Travel England, it is totally free of charge to schools.. The programme trains students to address a number of current issues that concern them and their peers. Students learn to Identify transport issues around their schools. Design and deliver campaigns that encourage walking, cycling, and other forms of active travel. Promote road safety and reduce car use near their schools.

The event is designed to build confidence, leadership, and presentation skills, while giving students a real platform to influence how their school and community approach travel and safety. It's not just a competition it's a celebration of youth-led change.

It's not just about getting from A to B it's about building confidence, tackling real-world issues, and leaving a legacy of positive change. In Cambridgeshire, the Active Travel Ambassador (ATA) project is part of a wider effort to promote walking, cycling, and other forms of sustainable travel especially among young people.

It's all part of a push to make Cambridgeshire safer, greener, and more connected. Together we are creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire and the ATA project is a practical example of this .



Keith Woodward Modeshift Active Travel Ambassadors Coordinator (East of England)

The School Crossing Patrol Service

Becoming a school crossing patroller is one of those quietly heroic roles that makes a real difference in a community. Patrollers are described by many communities as “invaluable.”

- **Protecting children’s safety:** The core of the job is helping children and families cross roads safely on their way to and from school. That’s a way to contribute to public safety and peace of mind for parents and carers.
- **Being a local hero:** You become a familiar, trusted face in the neighbourhood. Children wave, parents and families smile, and you’re part of the daily rhythm of the community.
- **Flexible, part-time hours:** The role typically involves short shifts during school start and end times, which can suit retirees, parents, or anyone looking for meaningful part-time work.
- **Legal authority and training:** Patrollers are trained and have the legal power to stop traffic, making the role both respected and impactful.
- **It’s genuinely rewarding:** Many patrollers say the job gives them a sense of purpose and joy especially when they see the same children grow up over the years.

Training is given for the role and covers

- **Initial training:** New recruits are trained by local authority road safety education team and training involves practical, on-site training at the crossing location.
- **Legal and safety knowledge:** Patrollers are taught about their legal powers to stop traffic, the correct use of the stop sign, and how to assess traffic conditions safely.
- **Risk assessment and incident handling:** They learn how to perform dynamic risk assessments, report hazards, and handle incidents like near misses or aggressive drivers.
- **Safeguarding and communication:** Training can include safeguarding protocols and how to communicate clearly and confidently with children and adults.
- **Uniform and equipment use:** Patrollers are instructed on the proper use and maintenance of their high-visibility uniform and stop sign, which are legally required.
- **Ongoing monitoring and refresher training:** The Road Safety Education team and the School Crossing Patrol Service manage make periodic site checks and arrange refresher sessions to ensure patrollers remain valued and kept up to date.

It’s not just about holding a sign—it’s about holding space for safety, kindness, and connection. Would you ever consider doing something like that?



 Cambridgeshire
County Council

Could you be a School Crossing Patrol Officer?

We are looking for reliable School Crossing Patrol Officers to assist children and adults in crossing the road to and from school safely.

If you are interested please contact Andy Swallowe (School Crossing Patrol Service Manager) on 07788 565502 or e-mail Andy.Swallowe@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The hours vary between 08:15 - 09:00 and 14:50 - 15:50
Monday - Friday term time only
The Council also welcomes applicants who are interested in job sharing.

Please note: Applicants for positions that involve working with children are required to complete a DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) check.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Summer, the season of picnics, barbecues, holidays and road trips. Winter gets most of the attention for dangerous driving conditions, but summer has its own set of often-overlooked hazards.

Here are a few key things to be aware of when driving this summer:

Stay hydrated

Loughborough University found in a study that dehydrated drivers make the same number of mistakes as drink-drivers. On one hand, reaching for a bottle can be a hazardous distraction. On the other, we should absolutely make sure we have fluid on hand if we need it. Stopping regularly is best practice: this will give you the best opportunities to refresh and recharge without distraction.

Be careful with medications

Another comparison to drink-driving – some hay fever medications cause drowsiness, nausea, and other symptoms that could impair your ability to drive. If police think you aren't fit to drive, you can be arrested and prosecuted.

Of course, being ill with hay fever can be distracting too: sneezing while driving at 70mph can effectively blind us for 100 metres. The key is to be aware of what the potential side-effects of our medication are. If you're unsure, ask your doctor.

Sleepiness (and jet lag)

Summer is travel season, and it's becoming increasingly likely that we will indeed be able to visit faraway lands this year. If you do manage to get away to different time zones, be aware of jet lag and how it could affect your ability to drive. Sleepiness is another danger that is often underestimated.

Jet lag isn't the only reason for tired drivers. Less sleep, long road trips and increased social activity are all likely with summer, and all can result in less sleep.

Summer road conditions

A little-known but significant change in road conditions: During dry-spells, bitumen in the asphalt and oil and rubber from our cars build up on the road surface. When rain does inevitably come, this built-up oily residue makes road surfaces much more slippery than they ordinarily would be when wet.

Check your vehicle

Proper checks are key to minimizing the possibility of breaking down, and avoiding the stress and potential danger that comes with it. We recommend the POWDER Checklist:



Essentials when out riding your bike in summer

Water Staying hydrated is important on a ride of any length, so don't forget to pick up your water bottle before you head out.

Tools and tubes Be prepared for getting a puncture, with a spare inner tube, puncture repair kit and a set of tyre levers. You will also need a bike pump to inflate your tyre once you have made the repair. Carrying a multi-tool is also a good bit of kit to have with you.

Money & ID It's always handy to have a bit of cash on you while you're out, and having some form of photo ID is useful should anything happen to you while out on the road.

Lights If you're riding early in the morning or late at night it's vital that you take a set of lights with you, not only to improve your own vision but to make yourself as visible as possible to other road users.

Mobile phone There may be the odd occasion when you suffer a mechanical problem or are involved in an incident when you will need someone to come and get you. Having a fully charged mobile phone is essential in this situation.

Keep it secure Planning a stop for a coffee and a cake? Make sure you have a bike lock with you. The last thing you want is to be stuck miles from home with no bike.

Check the weather forecast We all know about the UK weather, it is somewhat changeable, so be prepared for all seasons in a day! If you are riding in a hotter location, make sure you are prepared and also carry sunscreen as well as extra fluids.



Summer walks can be pure bliss, longer days, blooming nature, and that golden evening light. But to keep things safe and enjoyable, a little planning goes a long way. Here are some top tips:

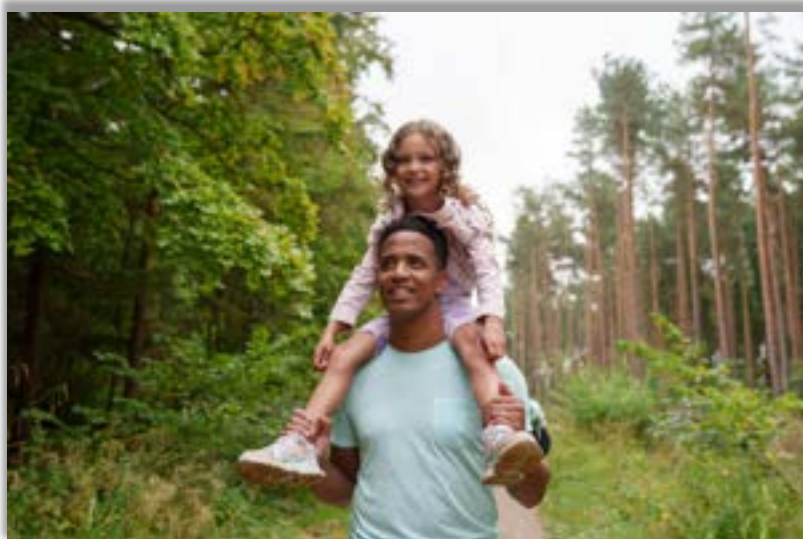
Stay Safe in the Heat

- **Time it right:** Aim for early mornings or evenings to avoid the hottest part of the day (11am–3pm).
- **Hydrate often:** Bring plenty of water and sip regularly—even if you’re not thirsty.
- **Dress smart:** Lightweight, breathable clothes in light colours help keep you cool. Don’t forget a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.
- **Sun protection:** Apply SPF 30+ sunscreen and reapply throughout your walk, especially if you’re sweating.
- **Know the signs:** Watch for symptoms of heat exhaustion like dizziness or nausea, and take breaks in the shade.
- **Pick scenic routes:** Woodland trails, coastal paths, or riverside walks offer natural shade and beauty.
- **Bring company:** Walking with a friend or pet adds fun and motivation.
- **Add a twist:** Try themed walks like a photo scavenger hunt, a “walk and sketch” outing, or even a food walk with picnic stops.



Whether it’s a mindful solo stroll or a lively group ramble, summer walking is one of the simplest joys.

- **Explore new places:** Use apps or local guides to discover hidden gems near you.
- **If you’re walking** with a dog, bring water for them too and avoid hot pavements.
- **Respect nature:** follow the Countryside Code and leave no trace.



Street Tag is a free, gamified smartphone app that turns everyday movement like walking, cycling, or scooting into a fun, competitive experience. Think of it as a virtual treasure hunt layered over your local streets, parks, and school routes. Street Tag is like turning your daily walk into a game and who doesn't love a bit of fun with their fitness?



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH
COMBINED AUTHORITY**

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Schools

Get Active & Win Prizes

Walk. Run. Cycle. Roll. Scoot.

Season Date: 7th July - 1st Sept, 2025

Join To Play

- * Download the FREE Street Tag App on the PlayStore/AppStore.
- * Enter your name, a preferred username, email address and create a password.
- * If you don't have a referral code, press continue.
- * Choose "Schools Leaderboard" as your option.
- * Select **Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Schools** then pick your school team.
- * Start tagging and earning points.

PS: Parents can add up to two child accounts on their main account.



**Scan the QR Code
to watch the video
on how to sign up.**

Prizes (Cambridgeshire)

- 1st Place - £80 Decathlon e-gift**
 - 2nd Place - £50 Decathlon e-gift**
 - 3rd Place - £20 Decathlon e-gift**
- Visit www.streettag.co.uk/prizes for more details

**Download the
Street Tag app**



www.streettag.co.uk