

OATLANDS INFANT SCHOOL



Nurtured + Inspired = Happy



*Caring about today;
creating successful tomorrows.*

Oatlands Infant & Junior Schools

May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Looking after your child, looking after where we live

Currently only about 65% of our families walk, cycle or scoot to school. Although this is a good start, we want to encourage even more families to make green choices about their school journey. Here are some of the reasons why we would like you to think about how your child makes the journey every day:

- It's recommended that children are physically active for at least 60 minutes a day, including at least 30 minutes out of school. Walking, cycling or scooting is an easy way to ensure your child is active outdoors- and you too!
- Driving to/from school is often very stressful as it can be hard to park or you can get caught up in traffic congestion. It often ends up taking at least as much time as if you had walked!
- Walking, cycling or scooting is an easy way to spend quality time talking with your child about their day and the world around them.
- Walking, cycling or scooting is a sociable way to travel to school- meet up with other families along the way!
- Recently published research showed that long-term exposure to man-made air pollution in the UK has an effect equivalent to 28,000 to 36,000 deaths a year, including coronary heart disease, strokes, asthma and lung cancers. Reducing car usage will improve air quality across our town, benefitting everyone.
- Our local residents help us to look after school by keeping an eye on the premises after hours when nobody is here. We want to repay them by reducing the inconvenience that lots of on-street parking at the beginning and end of the school day can cause them.
- The planet is on the brink of catastrophic climate change. Reducing car usage is one way you can help to protect the planet and your child's future.

How does school support families to make greener travel choices?

- We provide secure scooter and bicycle racks for pupil use.
- Every year, all pupils receive pedestrian and/ or scooter training so that they know how to keep themselves safe when travelling to/ from school.
- Y5 receive Bikeability training to Level 2, which includes cycling safely on local roads.
- We promote active travel through a daily **Travel Tracker**, which rewards children who choose active travel at least twice a week, every week (see below).
- We provide spaces at school for wet weather gear should the children need it on a rainy day.

Travel Tracker

After half term we will be launching our Travel Tracker to encourage active travel to school. Each day, children record their journey to school using a nationally recognised scheme, [Living Streets Travel Tracker](#). They can earn a badge for each month they choose an active mode of travel, at least twice a week, every week.

Active Travel Choices are:

- Walking
- Cycling
- Scooting
- Park & Stride
- Hop Off

Q What is Park & Stride?

Park & Stride is ideal for those families who need to drive because of their onward journeys after school drop off. Park a bit further away than the usual parking spots and walk the last part of your journey. We have made arrangements with the following places for our families to use as Park & Stride:

- **M&S** is an ideal place to Park & Stride from as it has lots of space and is free without restrictions for one hour, and there is a safe walking route.
- **Hornbeam Park** where we are awaiting signage from Harrogate Council to show that parents of both Oatlands Infant & Junior Schools can use it.
- **St. Mark's Church** is slightly further away but they have offered the use of their car park during drop off and pick up times.

The attached map shows where these Park & Stride locations as well as the areas that would not be accepted as a Park & Stride.

Q What is Hop Off?

For those of us who travel by bus, Hop Off is getting off one or two stops earlier and walking the last part of your journey.

Please think about healthy travel choices, as good habits are easier to keep if they start straight away. Reducing the number of cars around our school will help to keep our pupils safe on their journey to and from school.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

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Oatlands Infant School

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