

INFORMATION

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The photo shows chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Roads Safety forum, councillor John Murray, with pupils from Rigside Primary School.

Walk to School week a success in South Lanarkshire

SCHOOLS across South Lanarkshire have been taking part in the annual Walk to School week.

Each year a different theme is chosen to help encourage children and their parents or guardians to walk to school.

This year the theme was “Walk Smart with Strider”, which delivers key road safety messages that support the national curriculum.

The school journey is an opportunity for children to learn important skills such as crossing the road safely and using signs and landmarks to help them find their way.

This is especially important when children are preparing to move to secondary school, which is often the first time many children will travel on their own to school.

All education establishments were sent Walk to School Week resources.

At Chapelton Primary School, Zimbar the Zebra visited and gave out badges to the pupils along with the school’s Junior Road Safety Officers.

At Rigside Primary School, pupils designed a huge banner emblazoned with road safety messages and footprints encouraging fellow pupils to walk to school using their road safety skills.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council’s Road Safety Forum, Councillor John Murray, said: “I cannot emphasise enough how important it is for children – and their parents – to walk to school, even if it is just a short distance.

“It has clear health benefits and also means that the young people are reaping the benefits of practical road safety awareness. Another plus point is the reduction in pollution.

“I know for some people distance dictates they must take the car, but even parking a distance away and walking is much better than trying to get a drop-off point right next to the school gates.

“It can also help save petrol – something I am sure every car driver is trying to do with the current financial climate.

“The school run can use a lot of fuel because of the general stop-start nature of the journey, which is also not good for the environment.

“There is also the road safety aspect – we have all seen how crowded the entrances and exits to schools can get with cars and some people’s selfish parking can put children in danger.

“I hope as many pupils and parents as possible continue to walk to school and when they do I am sure they will recognise the benefits and continue to do so.”