

INFORMATION

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Chatelherault Primary pupils have the WOW factor

PUPILS from Chatelherault Primary School in Hamilton are walking the walk when it comes to road safety.

The school is one of the latest to sign up to South Lanarkshire Council's WOW scheme – Walk Once a Week or Walk on a Wednesday.

The aims of the scheme is to help reduce the number of children who are consistently driven to school and to increase their level of physical activity. WOWs target is that children should walk to school at least once a week and the more often the better.

The Council's School Travel Plan Co-ordinator visited the school recently to promote the scheme, which targets Primary 5 children as this year group are more likely to be progressing towards independent travel.

It is also hoped the scheme will encourage sustainable travel habits in these children for now and the future.

Children who are participating will receive a passport style diary to be ticked when they have walked to school, and will receive a "goody" four times a year when they have fulfilled their commitment to walk to school.

Within the WOW diary, there are four calendars:

- Back to school August to October break
- October to December
- January to Spring Holidays
- April to Summer Holidays

The WOW diary requires to be ticked / marked when they have walked to school and it is being left to schools to determine the most convenient approach for their individual school.

A nominated person (P5 teacher, office staff, Junior Road Safety Officer) should be chosen from each school and the P5 children asked to approach that person during a chosen time period to have their diary marked.

It is accepted that not all children are able to walk to school. That's why the Road Safety Team will accept children participating in WOW who Park and Stride to school (Park and Stride is where the parent or guardian parks a short distance away and the child walks the rest of the way).

At the end of each calendar period, the number of children who have fulfilled their commitment to walk to school should be emailed to the Road Safety Team for prompt distribution of the "goody".

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Roads Safety Forum, Councillor John Murray, said: "The WOW scheme is a great way to encourage children to walk to school.

"As well as the obvious health benefits, if more children walked to school congestion would be reduced around the school gates, making this a safer area for all.

"We would hope that children would walk to school more than once a week but as a starting point WOW gives them the knowledge, skills and experience they need.

"Congratulations on Chatelherault Primary School for taking part in the WOW Scheme."

If you require any further information on WOW, School Travel Plans or Road Safety please do not hesitate to contact the Road Safety Team on 01698 453 620.

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