



Summer Steps: Brightening Up the School Run **Celebrating confident pupils, sunshine-filled journeys and positive travel habits**

Summer has arrived, bringing lighter mornings, warmer days and plenty of chances for families to enjoy the school run in fun, healthy ways. Across Cambridgeshire, it's been brilliant to see pupils walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling with growing confidence. The enthusiasm from pupils, staff and families is making a real difference.

This edition celebrates that progress. From eager pupil travel champions to staff encouraging safe habits every day, schools are helping children build routines that boost independence, awareness and road safety. With simple tools and resources available, it's easier than ever to keep these good habits going through the summer term.

Sunnier days also mean busier roads and changing routines, so it's a great time to remind children about safe crossing, staying alert and making sensible choices on every journey.

The work happening in schools is doing more than easing the school-gate rush, it's helping young people develop lifelong confidence in travelling safely and responsibly. Thank you for everything you do to support healthier, greener school journeys. Together, we're making every summer school run a bright and positive one.





The Junior Travel Ambassadors



Junior Travel Ambassadors – Making a Difference!

What a fantastic year it has been working with our Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs) across Cambridgeshire!

This year, an incredible **184 JTAs** have been busy promoting road safety and sustainable travel within their school communities. Their enthusiasm, creativity and commitment really do make a difference—helping to keep everyone safer and encouraging more pupils to travel actively to school.

Walking into Action – Walk to School Week

One of the highlights this year was the national **Walk to School Week**, with an amazing **7,500 children taking part** across the county!

Our JTAs pulled out all the stops to make it a success, including:

- Delivering assemblies
- Organising a brilliant “**Happy Shoes Day**”
- Running competitions
- Giving out stickers, cards and prizes



Thank You!

A huge thank you to all our JTAs for their hard work this year—you have been absolutely brilliant! We would also like to thank the fantastic staff who support the programme in schools. Your encouragement and enthusiasm make all the difference.

We are already looking forward to welcoming our new JTAs in **September!**

Highlights from the Year

JTAs have been incredibly busy, delivering a wide range of fun and impactful activities, including:

- Park & Stride initiatives – working with local businesses and Parish Councils to encourage safer parking away from the school gates
- Writing and performing plays (and even creating an animation using a *Creme Egg*!) to highlight the importance of wearing cycle helmets
- Creating presentations on road safety, including the dangers of potholes for cyclists
- Delivering fun and engaging assemblies (often more entertaining than the teachers!)
- Using speed cameras to support safer driving in their communities
- Hosting **Wheelie Wacky Wednesday**, decorating bikes and scooters as part of The Big Walk and Wheel
- Supporting younger pupils by promoting seatbelt use and holding hands near roads
- Running themed days such as **Fun Footwear Friday** to promote walking

🔒 Launching **Golden Lock competitions** to encourage more cycling and scooting



Robert Arkenstall
JTA toured their
new building
during
construction,
helping to plan
future bike and
scooter storage

📌 Find Out More

To learn more about the Junior Travel Ambassadors programme, please contact:

📧 maree.richards@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Junior Travel Ambassadors Shine at Celebration Event

On 23rd June, we were delighted to welcome 10 schools to our Junior Travel Ambassador (JTA) Celebration Event at Cottenham Village Hall.

It was a fantastic day recognising the hard work of our JTAs, who have shown real enthusiasm, creativity and leadership in promoting road safety and active travel. From assemblies and competitions to encouraging safer journeys to school, their impact has been truly inspiring.

Despite the warm weather, pupils embraced the day with positivity—enjoying activities, sharing ideas and celebrating achievements together. A relaxed lunchtime in the shade added to the great atmosphere.

It was especially inspiring to hear pupils sharing their projects and learning from one another, showcasing the difference they are making in their school communities.

“It was really fun meeting other schools and sharing ideas – I’ve got lots of new things to try when I get back to school!”



Changing the Way We Travel to School

A big thank you to **St Bede's Inter-Church School** and **Impington Village College** for successfully completing the Active Travel Ambassador (ATA) Programme this academic year. It's been a real pleasure working with both schools, and we're looking forward to building on this success with more Cambridgeshire schools next year.

The aim of the programme is simple—encouraging students and staff to **walk or wheel to school, where possible**. What makes it work so well is the positive approach: celebrating active travel through incentives like raffles, competitions and prize giveaways, making it both fun and rewarding.

The impact goes beyond the journey itself, helping students to feel more confident, independent, and engaged in making a difference within their school community.



Cycle raffle ticket scheme

Whenever someone arrives at school with a bike, they are given a raffle ticket. At the end of the week, a draw takes place.

The winning student receives a prize.

Impington students ATA proposal pitch

Impington Village College

Impington Village College have now been involved in the programme for two years, with initiatives such as raffles and the popular *Golden Bike Lock* helping to encourage and reward cycling.

The Golden Bike Lock has been a particular success—a randomly selected bike is locked up during the day, and its owner receives a prize when it is unlocked.

Since taking part in the programme, the school has seen a steady shift in travel habits, with cycling increasing from **20% to 23%**, and car use reducing from **11% to 10%**.

St Bede's Inter-Church School



St Bede's Inter-Church School have made an impressive start, with **33% of students walking, 45% cycling, and just 8% travelling by car**. This is already a fantastic position to be in—and the students are keen to see if they can go even further.

With a cycle park that is already full, it's clear that active travel is firmly part of everyday school life. It will be exciting to see how these figures develop when this year's results come in.

A special mention also goes to Headteacher Mr Day, who has been inspired to lead by example and now cycles to school himself.



"It's been a really worthwhile thing to be part of. You feel like you've had a say, and it's made more people think about travelling in better ways."

ATA student, St Bede's Inter-Church School



The Active Travel Ambassador Programme is now in its fourth year. Want to know more? This is open to secondary schools across Cambridgeshire. Please contact:

Keith Woodward

ATA Coordinator for the East of England keith@modeshift.org.uk

Clearer Skies, Healthier Lives – Inspiring Our School Communities

Over the past few months, **Cambridgeshire County Council's Road Safety Education Team** has been delivering the Public Health-funded *Clearer Skies, Healthier Lives* project, helping pupils understand air quality while promoting healthier, more sustainable travel and a safer environment.

Working with MP Smarter Travel and Cambridge Filmworks, we delivered engaging workshops in primary and secondary schools, bringing the topic of air pollution to life through interactive learning and practical activities.

A key highlight has been the creation of a short film capturing pupils' ideas and voices. We'd like to say a big thank you to **St Bede's Inter-Church School** and **Godmanchester Community Academy** for their fantastic involvement in workshops, filming, interviews, and shaping the storyline. The pupils were a real credit to their schools.

The project has also produced a range of resources to support ongoing learning. **From September, the film and resources will be available to all interested schools**, helping even more pupils across Cambridgeshire get involved.

We look forward to continuing this work with schools across the county to support cleaner air, healthier lifestyles, and safer communities.



St Bede's Inter-Church School



Godmanchester Community Academy



Celebrating Modeshift STARS Success Across Cambridgeshire!

It's been a fantastic year for Modeshift STARS in Cambridgeshire, with around 100 schools now supported to make journeys to school safer, healthier and more sustainable.

If you're new to it, Modeshift STARS is a **free national scheme** that supports schools to promote active, safer and more sustainable travel. It helps embed simple changes—like walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling—into everyday school life.

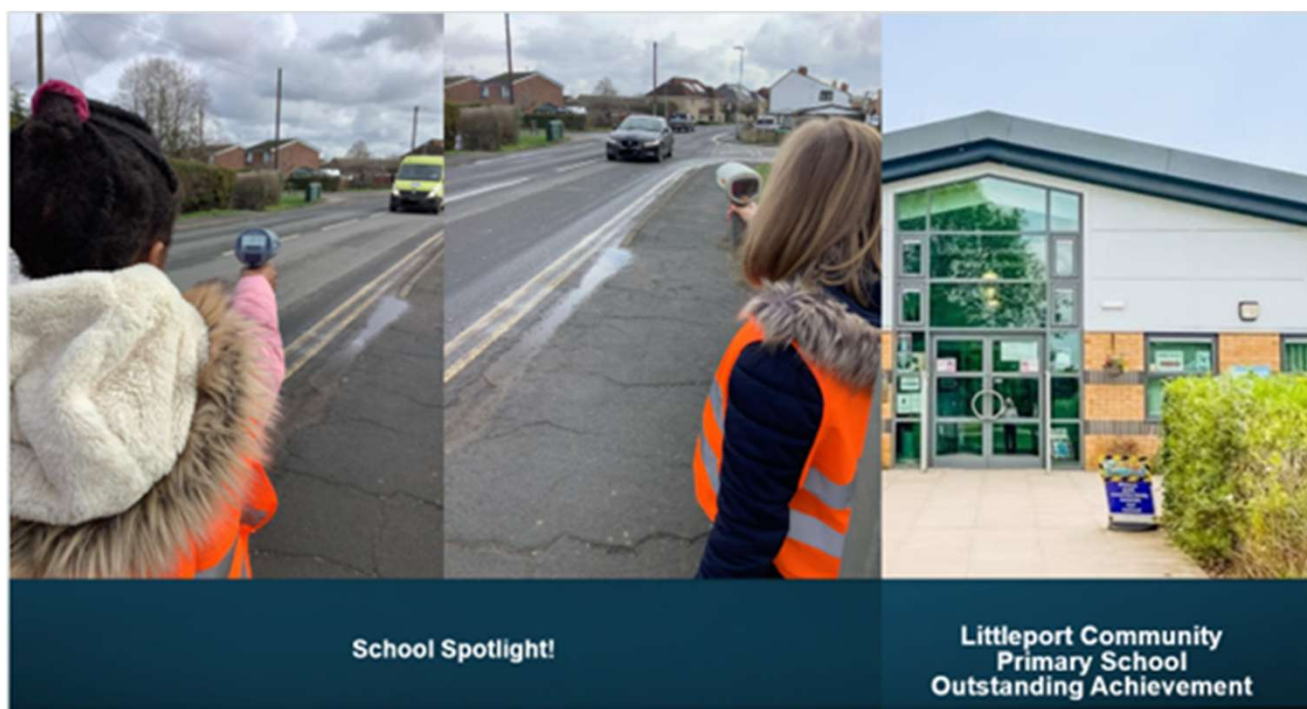
From walking and cycling initiatives to pupil-led Travel Ambassador programmes, schools across the county have been embracing sustainable travel in creative and inspiring ways. It's been brilliant to see such enthusiasm from pupils, staff and families alike—helping to reduce congestion at the school gate while boosting wellbeing.



Behind the scenes, strong partnerships between schools, Public Health, the Smarter Journeys team and other organisations have made this progress possible—showing what can be achieved when we work together.

To all our participating schools—thank you and well done! If your school hasn't yet joined Modeshift STARS, now is the perfect time to get involved and be part of a growing movement making a real difference to our communities.

Let's keep Cambridgeshire moving!



Congratulations to Littleport Community Primary School, who have achieved **Modeshift STARS Outstanding level** this year an incredible and thoroughly deserved accomplishment!

Littleport has shown what can be achieved through a genuine whole-school commitment to safer, healthier and more sustainable travel, with these values embedded into everyday school life.

Pupils have been at the heart of this success, with enthusiastic Junior Travel Ambassadors leading campaigns, sharing messages in assemblies and organising competitions to promote road safety. Their voice has played a key role in driving change across the school community.

The school has delivered a wide range of initiatives—from walking events and Bikeability training to improved cycle storage and clearer signage supported by strong partnerships with local organisations and road safety teams.

Most importantly, this work is making a real difference, with more pupils walking and cycling, reduced congestion at the school gates, and improved safety awareness among families.

Littleport Community Primary School is a fantastic example of what Modeshift STARS is all about creating lasting, positive change for pupils, families and the wider community. Well done to everyone involved!

Sharing the Road: Protecting Horses and Riders



Collisions between vehicles and horses

Collisions between vehicles and horses continue to rise across the UK, as highlighted by *Horse & Hound*. These incidents are devastating — riders are injured and too many horses lose their lives. Most incidents are preventable with simple, considerate behaviour.

Drivers should:

- Slow down to **10 mph**
- Pass wide
- Be prepared to stop

High hedges, blind bends, and narrow lanes can severely limit visibility. You may not see what is ahead — a rider, or even a group, could be just metres away.

Speed is a major factor, leaving little time to react. During holidays, unfamiliar roads increase risk. Areas such as the **New Forest and Dartmoor** often have free-roaming horses.

Sharing the road safely

Animals behave unpredictably — give them extra caution and space. Riders are also vulnerable road users. Even in summer, visibility can be reduced by sunlight, shadows, or bright clothing. Clear hand signals, calm riding, and choosing quieter routes all help improve safety.

During busy periods, less experienced riders may be present, so awareness from all road users is essential.

Horses are flight animals — sudden noise or speed can cause them to react quickly and unexpectedly.

Pass wide, go slow — horses can be frightened by close or fast approaches, whether you're on two wheels or four.



Safer Routes Maps – A Simple Tool, Big Impact!

Want to make the school journey safer, healthier and less stressful? Our **free personalised Safer Routes Maps** are helping schools across Cambridgeshire do exactly that. They're also perfect for sharing with families on your website, in newsletters or at events.

Created by the Road Safety Education Team, these clear, practical maps help families choose safer walking, cycling and scooting routes to and from school.

What's included?

Each map is tailored to your school and highlights:

Safe walking and cycling routes

Key crossing points

Park-and-stride locations

Local landmarks for easy navigation

Why schools are using them

These maps are a great way to:

Encourage walking, cycling and scooting

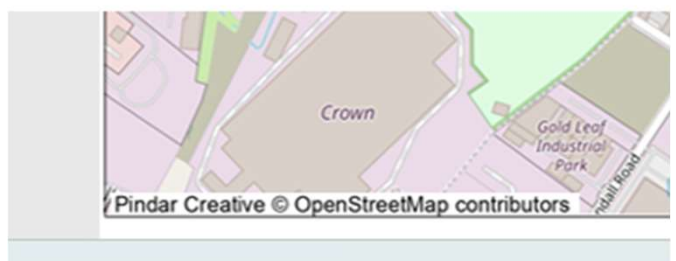
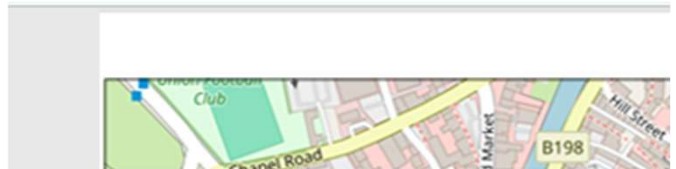
Reduce congestion at the school gate.

Ready to request yours?

If you'd like a bespoke Safer Routes Map—or an updated version—the Road Safety Education Team is here to help.

road.safety@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

"I like using the map because it shows where the safest crossings are—and I can walk with my friends." – Pupil



"The map made it much easier to find a good place to park and walk the last part—it's really helped reduce the stress of the school run." – Parent

Be Prepared: Keeping Safe on the Road

Breaking down might not be something we think about often, but it can be a real challenge. Many breakdowns are avoidable with simple routine checks—just remember

FLOWER:

F – Fuel: Make sure you have enough fuel for your journey or plan where to refill

L – Lights: Check all lights are working and clear

O – Oil: Ensure oil levels are within the correct range

W – Water: Check coolant and screen wash levels

E – Electrics: Make sure your battery and electrics are in good condition

R – Rubber: Regularly check tyres and windscreen wipers

Tyres are especially important—they are your only contact with the road. Invest in good quality tyres, avoid part-worn alternatives and remember

ACT:

- **Air pressure**
- **Condition**
- **Tread depth**

Many modern vehicles don't carry a spare wheel and rely on repair kits, which may not fix larger punctures. Consider a space-saver spare and ensure it is secured in your boot. Having breakdown cover can also provide peace of mind.



What to do if you break down

- If safe, move your vehicle out of traffic—even with a flat tyre
- If you must stop in a live lane, turn on hazard lights and move all occupants safely away from the vehicle, ideally behind a barrier
- Stand well back from the road in case the vehicle is struck
- On faster roads, call **999** for assistance

If you are involved in a collision where someone is injured or the road is blocked, call **999 immediately**.

Always drive appropriately for the conditions and ensure you can stop within the distance you can see to be clear.

Being prepared helps keep you and your family safe on the roads.



Climate Action in Schools – Support Available



Does your school have a **Climate Action Plan** in place?

Since 2022, the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy has set out expectations for all schools to have:

- A Climate Action Plan
- A Climate Lead
- A Climate Governor
- A Carbon Literacy trained member of staff

Every school is on its own journey, with different priorities and challenges—so there's no single “right way” to get started. It's about finding an approach that works for your school and engages your pupils.

To support schools, **PECT's Climate Education programme** offers a simple, practical way to take action. Acting as a one-stop green hub, it provides tools to help you create a plan, track progress and bring sustainability into everyday school life.

Schools can access:

- An interactive Climate Action Planning Tool and carbon calculators
- Ready-to-use lesson plans and resources
- Funding opportunities and competitions
- Expert support through a dedicated school dashboard



Book your FREE conversation:

Book your FREE climate conversation

 hello@climateeducation.co.uk

 Visit: Climate Education

Best of all, schools can book a **FREE 30-minute climate conversation**, whether you're just starting out or looking to build on existing plans.



Essential vehicle checks for your school minibuses

Thorough, regular maintenance of a school minibus is essential for safe and successful transporting of passengers this summer. A well-maintained minibus vehicle reflects a school's commitment to safeguarding, health and safety and the wellbeing of passengers.

Every school minibus should:

- Have at least one member of staff who is responsible for minibus documentation, organising scheduled and ongoing maintenance, as well as managing driver training and CPD
- Keep a copy of Cambridgeshire 'Driving Minibuses' guidance document (or have this accessible in a staff space)



Any driver, before using the minibus must complete pre-drive checks:

- Tyres – pressure, tread depth and general condition
- Lights and indicators – in good working order
- Mirrors and windscreens – clean with no cracks
- Brakes – responsive
- Seatbelts – present and working

As well as fluid checks for fuel, brakes and oil levels.

For more information about maintenance of your school minibus, supporting resources or about signing up for our Cambridgeshire minibus driver training, email road.safety@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Safer Roads Start with Space: The Close Pass Campaign

Keeping people safe on our roads is a shared responsibility and small changes can make a big difference. The Active Travel Team is delivering a **Close Pass Campaign** to promote a simple but vital message: **give cyclists enough space.**

A close pass happens when a driver overtakes a cyclist without leaving sufficient room. It may seem brief or unintentional, but it can be intimidating and is a common cause of near misses and collisions. For many people (especially children, families and less experienced cyclists) the fear of close passing is a real barrier to active travel. Giving more space helps create roads that feel safer, more welcoming, and accessible for everyone.



Why does space matter?

Giving cyclists enough space helps to:

- ✓ Prevent serious injuries
- ✓ Reduce stress for all road users
- ✓ Encourage more people to walk and cycle
- ✓ Make roads safer for everyone

National guidance recommends leaving at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists, and more space where possible. Slowing down and waiting for a safe opportunity to pass can make all the difference.

This campaign supports road safety and sustainable travel across Cambridgeshire. By encouraging safe driving and mutual respect, we can help make active travel a safe and realistic choice for our communities.

Give space. Help keep everyone safe.

Family Cycle Training

Helping you feel more confident cycling

Free **family cycle training sessions** are now available across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, designed to help people of all abilities feel more confident on two wheels.

Whether you're new to cycling, feeling unsure on the road, or looking to build skills as a family, these small-group sessions offer friendly, tailored support every step of the way.

Who is it for?

- ✓ Beginners and those returning to cycling
- ✓ People lacking confidence on the road
- ✓ Families wanting to learn together

What to expect

Sessions take place in **traffic-free or low-traffic areas**, with experienced trainers helping you build skills safely and at your own pace. Bikes can be provided if needed.

Family Cycle Training

Helping you feel more confident cycling



What is happening?

From June 2026, you can take part in free cycle training sessions across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

You can choose from one-to-one, small group or family sessions. Everything is tailored to your ability and what you want to learn.

Whether you want to get started, build your confidence, or feel safer on the roads, you'll be supported at every step.

What experience level is this aimed at?

You can take part whatever your experience level.

You might be a complete beginner. Or you might already cycle but want to feel more confident on the road.

You can book the session that feels right for you, and everything will be adapted to your individual needs.

Who is the training for?

The training is for you if you:

- Haven't cycled before
- Feel nervous about cycling
- Want extra support to build confidence
- Would benefit from accessible and inclusive sessions

The sessions are free and a bicycle will be provided, or you can bring your own if preferred.

Where are the sessions taking place?

You can find session locations on the website below.

Most sessions will take place in traffic-free, tarmacked areas about the size of a tennis court – ideal for building skills and confidence.

If you feel ready to cycle on local roads, our trainers will support you to do this safely.

Scan the QR code to book your session

Alternatively, visit grafhamwater.cinolla.com/grafham-water/category/funded-cycle-training to book on.



For any queries relating to the sessions and requests for further information, please email activetravel@cambridgeshire.gov.uk





Get started

Scan me



Scan to book your free session

Why try cycle training?

- ✓ Build confidence at your own pace
- ✓ Learn practical skills for everyday journeys
- ✓ Enjoy cycling safely as a family