



The Priory School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am excited to announce a whole school event taking place in 5 weeks' time called "Active Travel Week."

In December 2020, I wrote to you asking you to complete a survey to help inform us about your child's travel habits to and from school. The feedback and information you gave us was fantastic and has helped us to understand the current travel behaviours within our school community. We have also used it to lobby all Shropshire Council candidates at the recent Shropshire Council Elections and we are very pleased to share that we received excellent support from all the successful candidates in the five wards that surround our school and serve our school community (Meole, Radbrook, Belle Vue, Copthorne and Porthill) as well as many other key political figures within the region. We are therefore extremely hopeful that the next 4 years will deliver on the infrastructure improvements that most of you cited as an area of concern with regards to your child walking or cycling to and from school.

As a school, our aim is simple: We want all students (who are able) to walk or cycle (or equivalent Active Travel option) to and from school every day.

To help with this we have teamed up with the Shropshire Cycle Hub to help achieve this aim over the coming years.

Developing a positive attitude towards Active Travel is going to be crucial for your children over their lifetime. The current dependency on car travel in the UK is considered one of the biggest threats to public health and the environment. Building Active Travel into individual's daily routines as a replacement for short car journeys is considered a "miracle cure" for many long term physical and mental health issues and so we are dealing our children great harm by not supporting them to develop healthy travel habits at an age they can easily. We are also helping the students to understand the negative impact car travel has on global warming, pollution and air quality, independence, road congestion and community.

The plan for Active Travel week is that all students (who are able to) will walk or cycle (or use their preferred mode of Active Travel) to and from school every day of the week commencing 28th June 2021. The vast majority of our students live within a distance that is close enough to manage this and those that don't we are asking parents to drop their child off a distance away from school so they can walk at least part of their journey. You could perhaps drop them at a friend's house so they could travel into school together and then pick them up in the same way at the end of the day. Our hope is that by facilitating these arrangements for this week the children will realise how enjoyable and responsible this type of travel can be and that they will be encouraged to not only

continue to travel to and from school in this way but that they will also look to replace other car journeys with more sustainable methods of travel.

We have asked the students to share with us their concerns or barriers for taking part in this event. At this stage we would simply ask your support with it and then I will then ask for your feedback after the event about what the issues were so we can look at how we can make improvements to help facilitate this going forward.

However much we would like your child to be involved in this event, it is of course entirely voluntary and so if you decide that it would not be appropriate for your child to engage in Active Travel Week then that will not be an issue but I would like to hear of your concerns when I ask for your feedback.

Yours sincerely
Mr J Tudor
The Priory School