



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Dear Parents / Carers

4th November 2019

WOW – The Year-Round Walk to School Challenge

For the remainder of this academic year, Ryecroft has chosen to be part of an existing nationwide challenge to encourage more children and their families to walk to school. **WOW – the year-round walk to school challenge** is delivered by Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking to help as many children as possible experience the benefits of walking to school brings.

WOW is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that easy!

What are the benefits of walking to school? Walking to school helps children feel happier and healthier and they arrive refreshed, fit and ready to learn. More families walking to school means fewer cars on the road during the school run, helping to reduce congestion and pollution at the school gates.

What if you can't walk to school? If you live too far away, or don't have time to walk the whole way to school, you can Park and Stride to help your child earn their WOW badge.

We understand that not all children are able to walk to whole way to school, due to distance, parental work commitments or a variety of other reasons. One way in which the school hopes to help you is by setting up a Park and Stride scheme and would like to ask parents/carers to park in Rocester Village Hall carpark and walk the rest of the way to school. If for some reason this is not a suitable parking place, we encourage you to choose another suitable place 10 minutes away from the school gates and then walk the rest of the way to school.

What if you travel to school on a school bus? Unfortunately, at the moment there is nothing in place to cater for children who travel to and from school on a school bus. However, I am in the process of liaising with School Transport to see if there is a suitable solution, such as the 'Hop Off' scheme, so we can start including these children.

Did you know? The WOW badges are made using excess yoghurt-pot material previously destined for landfill and are produced in the UK, minimising our carbon footprint. The packaging used is also 100% biodegradable. Living Streets is proud to have found a brilliant use for landfill material.

Thousands of schools and around one million pupils are enjoying the benefits of walking to school across the UK. Will you join them?

If you would like any further information regarding the above, then please do not hesitate to contact myself via the school office, or visit www.livingstreets.org.uk/WOW.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Bardon
Deputy Headteacher

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