

# Margaret Wix Primary School & Nursery

*"Respect, Self-Belief, Curiosity, Kindness and Resilience"*



Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well. I am writing to update you on the work our school has been doing to promote safe, active and environmentally responsible travel within our community, as we continue to work towards the next level of our Travel Plan accreditation and strive to achieve the 'silver' award in the coming months.

Over the past term, our dedicated Eco Warriors have played an important role in this journey. They recently met with members of the Local Authority to carry out a walking audit of the surrounding area. During this audit, the children assessed the condition of local roads and speed bumps, the clarity and effectiveness of road traffic signs, and the accessibility of pathways for wheelchair users, families with buggies, and mobility scooter users. They also took note of the general cleanliness of walking routes. Their observations will help us and the Local Authority identify ways to make the local environment safer and more inviting for everyone who travels to school on foot or by wheels. In addition to this, we have recently applied for a grant, via our Travel Plan colleagues, to improve some of the roadside issues along High Oaks, with a focus on the effectiveness of the tactile paving at the dropped curbs and improving the condition of the speed bumps – I think you will all agree that these are both huge areas of concern. We will update you on the success of this!

Promoting active travel remains at the heart of our work. We continue to organise "Walk to School" events in fun and engaging ways, such as our popular Teddy Bear Walk, which began this year at the park entrance on Toulmin Drive. As well as this, our promotion of the St Albans Bike Bus on Friday mornings, which travels around the New Greens estate, is still a possibility for you and your children to join in with. Travelling to school as part of a large, safe cycling group—accompanied by music and a wonderful sense of community—is a wonderful initiative and something I believe many of our children would enjoy.

We have also been supporting cleaner air initiatives in and around the school. Earlier this year, we took part in the anti-idling campaign and explored its importance during a whole-school assembly. Thanks to Green Party Councillor Matt

High Oaks, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6EL

Tel: 01727 759232

Email: [admin@margaretwix.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@margaretwix.herts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Claire Gibbs



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Fisher, we have been able to display an anti-idling banner outside the school to help raise awareness among all families and drivers.

Looking ahead, we will be participating in the upcoming "Cleaner Air Day" campaign, which links strongly to our anti-idling work. As part of this, we are excited to be meeting with Tricia from The Green House in St Albans to borrow their air-monitoring software and equipment. This will allow us to begin gathering meaningful data and take the next steps in improving air quality around our school site.

I would like to thank all of our families for your ongoing support. Small changes in daily travel choices—walking, scooting, cycling, or simply turning engines off while waiting—make a big difference to the safety and wellbeing of our children and our wider community. If you have any questions about the work that we are doing, or even any suggestions on how this could be improved, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Mrs Lyle, our Sustainability Lead and she will gladly assist you.

We look forward to continuing this important work together.

Kind regards,

Claire Gibbs

Headteacher

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