



Active Journeys BCP

Summer Newsletter 2026

We'd love to hear from you

Denise Thomson, Kate Salter, Helen Morse, Shayna Fonseka and Zoe Butler make up the Active Journeys to School Project Officers for BCP.

Please get in touch if you have any great school stories or would like to find out more about our school work.

Email:

bcpschools@walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk

Useful information



Bikeability run free holiday courses at Slades Park Pavilion and Kings Park Cycle Centre. To find out more information and book onto a course please contact:

bikeability@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Summer Term 2026

A huge thank you to all our brilliant Active Travel Champions across the 44 schools we currently work with in BCP. Their energy and commitment to encouraging active travel makes a real difference to children, families, and school communities.

The summer term has been as busy and exciting as ever. Pupils have enjoyed developing their scooter skills, planning safe routes to secondary school, learning to ride, fixing punctures, and discovering how we can all help improve the air quality around schools - along with many other exciting activities.



Dr Bike at St Joseph's (Christchurch) with our fantastic volunteer.



World Cup themed Bling Your Ride at Somerford



Learn to Ride at Christchurch Infant School

Planting air-purifying plants for each class at Livingstone Academy.



Clean Air Day

On Thursday 18th June we asked schools and school communities to get involved by sharing a summary of new research conducted by Southampton University and asking parents to pledge to make a change for cleaner air at BCP schools.

Eight years ago **UNICEF's Toxic School Run report** ([The toxic school run - UNICEF UK](https://tinyurl.com/BCPSchoolsAQ)) revealed children's high exposure to air pollution on school journeys. New research from the **University of Southampton**

(<https://tinyurl.com/BCPSchoolsAQ>) shows that pollution levels around schools in BCP and Dorset can be up to 10 times higher during term time than in the school holidays.



What can you do?

- Walk, wheel or cycle to school.
- Turn off your engine when stationary.
- Park and stride.

Working in partnership with BCP
We make people powered movement possible for everyone.



Transition to Secondary

Starting secondary school is an exciting milestone, but it can also feel daunting for many young people.

Being prepared and planning ahead can help reduce anxiety and build confidence.

If your child is planning to walk or cycle to school, it can be helpful to map out the route together and practise the journey beforehand.

A few useful tips:

- Allow extra time – Even if the journey is expected to take 15 minutes by bike, leave additional time in case of unexpected delays, such as forgetting something at home or needing to pump up a bicycle tyre.
- Share journey details – Make sure a trusted adult knows the route your child will be taking.
- Check cycling facilities – If cycling to school, find out where the bike sheds or cycle parking areas are located.
- Be prepared – Use our Route Confidence Checklist to help ensure your child is ready for their journey.

With a little planning and practice, the journey to secondary school can become a positive and confidence-building experience.

<https://share.sustrans.org.uk/share/public/?file=645333cf>

Password: transition



Big Walk and Wheel Winners.

What an incredible day for our winning BCP schools! Pupils were treated to a thrilling stunt show by Matti Hemmings – a professional BMX flatland champion and three-time world record holder.

The excitement didn't stop there, as some lucky children even had the chance to try out a few moves themselves!

It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm, with pupils leaving the event feeling inspired, energised, and full of excitement.



Livingstone Academy Stunt Show and workshop

Supporting Active Travel

The Government has recently published its new Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS3), setting out a clear vision to make walking, wheeling and cycling safer, easier and more accessible for everyone.

As part of this national plan, Active Travel England has introduced an ambitious target: for **60% of children aged 5–16 to usually walk, wheel or cycle to school by 2035** - recognising the important benefits for children's health, wellbeing and independence.

Even small changes can make a difference. Walking, scooting or cycling to school, even part of the way, helps children arrive ready to learn while reducing traffic around schools and supporting a cleaner environment.

We look forward to supporting families as we continue to promote active, healthy and sustainable school journeys.



Important dates next term

**SEP
22ND**

World Car Free Day

**OCT
5TH**

Cycle to School Week

<https://www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek/>

**OCT
25TH**

Clocks go back

Make sure your child is visible when travelling to and from school.

**NOV
15TH**

Road Safety Week