



## **MIDLOTHIAN SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN NEWSLETTER Winter 2017/18**

Happy New Year!

As part of your New Year health promotion, we'd like to ask you to continue to promote walking, cycling and bringing scooters to school, encouraging pupils who do need to travel by car to park at least 5 minutes away making the school entrance safer for all. Let's start New Year on the right (walking!) foot!

Lots happened at the end of last year and in place for 2018 - here are some of the highlights:-

### **OCTOBER WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK**

Once again, thank you for your support in promoting this week. Class wall charts were offered and issued to support in-school activities. Our next Walk to School Week is w/c 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018; this will include our annual inter-school walk – watch this space!



## **PARKSMART**

As winter weather continues, parking levels can continue to increase. If you feel your school could benefit from raising awareness of school gate parking issues, please get in touch.

### **HANDS UP SURVEY**

Thank you for your support with above. We receive results, which shows us compared with other authorities, in May and we'll let you know how we perform. Initial results look good though and our top 3 primary schools for lowest driven to school are:-

1. King's Park PS – 5.3% (up from second place and 7.5% last year!)
2. Mauricewood PS – 6.1%
3. Newtongrange PS – 7.4%

Well done!

## BIKEABILITY 2017/18



We're sure that most of you have your dates in place for this sessions' Bikeability training – indeed many of you have already held sessions. If anyone feels they may have delivery issues this year then please let us know asap so we can look at assisting if possible. We're committed to trying to get **all** our schools offering this to pupils so all pupils have this vital training.

### **KERBCRAFT CO-ORDINATOR TRAINING**

This annual training will be held on Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the community rooms in Loanhead & St Margaret's PS's from 0930hrs – 1130hrs. Schools can either appoint a member of staff or a parent in the co-ordinator role. The co-ordinator then works with parents to take groups of p1 or p2 pupils out on local streets around the school to do this vital road safety training. Please let me know names if you're able to send someone along.

### **SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS**

Thank you to those schools that have sent in their School Travel Plans this term. You'll receive a response to any areas highlighted as concerns very soon.

### **I BIKE**

Our I Bike Officers are now well established in their new school catchments – Penicuik HS & Dalkeith HS. Support is still offered to the former schools groups at Lasswade & Newbattle associated schools too so remember to give either Gordon or Roslynn a shout if you have anything you'd like to do!

## CYCLE FRIENDLY SCHOOLS AWARD

Well done to Newbattle High and Mauricewood PS who have both recently achieved this award! Mauricewood pupils pictured here:-



If you don't yet have your Cycle Friendly Schools Award, make this the year! Please get in touch and I'd be happy to pop out and go over application with you.

## BIG PEDAL



The Big Pedal is the UK's largest school cycling and scooting challenge. It inspires pupils, staff and parents to choose two wheels for their journey to school. Lots of you have enjoyed (and been successful!) in this before – let's have even more Midlothian schools taking part this year! Registration opens this month (January 2018) at [www.bigpedal.org.uk](http://www.bigpedal.org.uk).

**Finally** – As national news has highlighted already in 2018, many parents are driving children to school as they feel there are too many cars on the road making it unsafe for them to walk – a hard cycle to break!! We are determined to continue to promote active travel and really appreciate your support in helping us meet this aim – thank you!

If your school would like further information on any of the above mentioned schemes please contact: -

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