

Communities
Roads and Infrastructure
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To: Parent/Guardian

Any enquiries please contact:-

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

TRANSPORTATION: AUTUMN WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK (5 – 9 October 2020)

As you may be aware, the “Autumn Walk to School Week” is almost upon us again. It will begin on **Monday 5 October** and run through to **Friday 9 October inclusive**. The underlying intention of the initiative, as the title suggests, is to encourage school pupils to walk, or cycle and scoot to and from school, where it is safe to do so, or, if this is not possible, to take part in playground activities.

Dumfries and Galloway Council is supporting and promoting this activity throughout the region by inviting all schools to take part in the “Walk to School Week” event and your school has expressed an interest in taking part. All that we ask is that you consider allowing your child to walk or actively travel to and from school, either accompanied or unaccompanied (some or all of the way) during the week 5 – 9 October 2020, or to take part in a playground activity. Given the benefits of such initiatives, it would obviously be desirable for you to also consider **allowing your child to walk, cycle or scoot on a regular basis**, again where it is safe to do so.

Where possible we will be inviting the Junior Road Safety Officers from each school to assist in the recording of the event, whether in terms of ‘**regular**’ walking, cycling or scooting to school, or perhaps as part of a ‘**Park and Stride**’ scheme or a ‘**Playground Activity**’. Put simply, we are keen to promote walking and active travel, even if it means parking further away than you would normally park and allowing/assisting/encouraging your child to walk from there. Some of the benefits of doing so are that children can gain a greater independence, chat with friends (and/or parents), benefit from actual road safety training, and there are also obvious health benefits. Perhaps most importantly however, by walking or actively travelling to school the number of cars outside the school everyday should decrease, thereby actively reducing congestion and conflicts, as well as giving consideration to pedestrians outside the school.

Yours faithfully

Lilianne Pool