

Schools & Parents

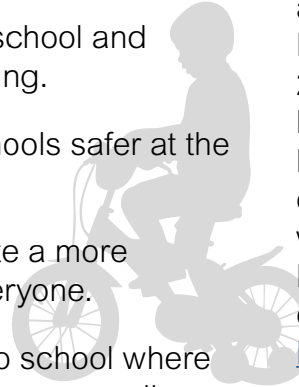
School Streets Newsletter (July 2023)

SCHOOL STREETS

CAR FREE

School Streets is a community-based approach, which aims to:

- Cut down on traffic and parking pressures outside schools.
- Discourage car journeys to school and encourage walking and cycling.
- Make the streets outside schools safer at the start and end of the day.
- Improve air quality and create a more pleasant environment for everyone.
- Encourage families to walk to school where possible to be healthy and improve well-being.

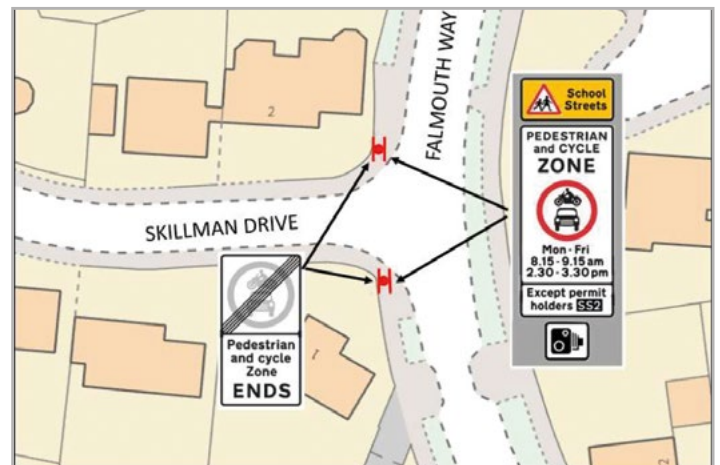


September 2023 (TERM TIME ONLY)

A car-free School Streets scheme will be introduced around the roads to Francis Baily Primary School in September 2023. Access to the school via Skillman Drive will be restricted for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. During these times no-one can enter or exit unless their vehicle is registered with the Councils Parking Team or has a valid Blue Badge. If you have any questions, please email us directly at Parking@westberks.gov.uk



These schemes put children and families first, to keep them safe and healthy by encouraging walking, scooting, and cycling. Changing the way in which we all travel is not about altering our lifestyle or making any big commitment. It's about exploring the changes you would like to make that work for you, your life, your family, and your commitments. If everyone takes one small step, we can make a real difference.



West Berkshire
COUNCIL



Staff, parents, and pupils (Year 5 & 6) were asked to participate in an Active Travel survey to help us identify what was needed to remove the barriers to encourage more walking, scooting, or cycling to school.

Here is what you said:

Parents (224 responses)

#1 - Entrance via the A4 needs to be opened at 08:30 and if collecting from the afterschool club.

#2 – Vehicles speed on the A4, 20mph would make it safer.

#3 – Not everyone can walk or cycle to school (live too far away).

#4 – During wet weather and in the winter, it's easier to drive.

#5 – Now the connecting field through Kennet is closed the journey is much longer.

#6 – Need a School Crossing Patroller.

#7 – Concerns about the pedestrian crossing along the A4.

#8 – Home and work commitments are different for everyone.

Staff (59 responses)

#9 – No personal storage lockers.

#10 – Too much to carry.

#11 – No staff cycle storage.

#12 – Live too far away

Pupils (103 responses)

#13 – We need cycle storage at the front of the school.

#14 – I want to gain more independence, feel more responsible and practise before going to secondary school.

#15 - Because I am not ready in the morning, I make my parents late and that means we end up driving to school instead of walking.

We cannot solve everything plus there are some important reasons why some things cannot change....

#1 - The gates on the A4 cannot be opened at 08:30 as the playground is used by those at the breakfast club and cannot be contained therefore it is a safeguarding issue. The school have however agreed to arrange afterschool club collection via the A4 up to 4.30pm

#5 - The connecting field through Kennet is closed to ensure all pupils are protected whilst on the school grounds.



What we will be working on....

(depending on budget and staffing resources available)

#1 - The gates on the A4 cannot be opened at 08:30 as the playground is used by those at the breakfast club and cannot be contained therefore it is a safeguarding issue. The school have agreed to open them at 8.40am earlier than the gates at the front of the school and would encourage parents to use the A4 vehicle gate. The school is also looking into how the A4 gate could be used at 4.30pm when some clubs finish.

#2 – A4, Bath Road outside the school during school drop off and pick up times will be monitored regularly. We will be installing equipment to monitor the speed, volume and type of the vehicles using this road. This will raise awareness of driver speeds and presence of children crossing to get to school.

#4 – Installation of a parent shelter on the playground near the A4, Bath Road to protect parents waiting for their children on wet days.

#5 - The pathway connecting Francis Baily School with Kennet School is closed to ensure all pupils are safe whilst on the school grounds. The access through the site was unsafe previously and left both schools vulnerable.

#6 – School Crossing Patrol volunteers

#7 – Review of the A4, Bath Road pedestrian crossing west of the school near to the roundabout.

#13 – Cycle storage at the front of the school.

#14 – Develop a Walking buddy programme with Year 5 and 6

How you can help....

School Streets is not just about closing the road it also aims to help you identify ways in which you might be able to rethink your journey to help make the areas outside your school a safer and less stressful environment, and to make the school run more enjoyable.

Active Travel keeps you fit and improves mental health. It's a convenient way to exercise every day and you can save money on parking, fuel, and gym fees!

Cycling / Scooting can be quicker, and you can avoid those traffic jams.

Walking is free; its great exercise and you can time your journey precisely. If it's too far to walk all the way, why not try **Park & Stride**; this means parking a little bit further away from school and then walking the last 5/10mins to the school gates!

What happens next....

Have your say – The car free School Street scheme will remain in place for a minimum of 6 to 9 months, throughout this period you will be able to provide us with feedback on how the scheme is going for you. All feedback needs to be directed to

www.westberks.gov.uk/FBSchoolstreets

as this will be used to determine whether the scheme will be made permanent.

For further information or enquires please contact us via email:

activetravel@westberks.gov.uk