



# Lytchett Matravers Primary School

Wareham Road, Lytchett Matravers, Poole, BH16 6DY

01202 622378 / e-mail: office@lmpsdorset.co.uk



**Executive Head Teacher: Susannah Hill**  
**Head of School: Laura Dominey**

19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As with many schools, drop off and pick up can be extremely busy, particularly with traffic. As a school, we are proud to be part of the 'Walk to School Scheme', to try and help reduce the number of cars on the roads and save our planet! Today, the children had a special assembly to re-launch this scheme.

A '**Walk to School Passport**' has been given to your child, for your child to record the number of times they "walk" to and from school each week. Each time they "walk", simply tick a box and once all 100 boxes have been ticked, the passport can be handed in to the school office or posted into the **GREEN 'Walk to School' box** outside the office. For every passport completed, your child will receive a special certificate. For every 2x certificates, they will receive a 'Non-Uniform Token' and 10x points for their school House!

### The rules are simple...

- You earn one point each time you walk to or from school.
- Riding a scooter or cycling also counts as walking! You can gain points for that too!
- You do not have to walk to school every day, just whenever you can!
- When you have collected 100 points, you will be awarded a special certificate.
- **If you car share or come to school on the bus, you can also have a point.**
- If you collect two certificates, we will award you with a 'Non-Uniform Day' token to use whenever you wish! Why not walk to school with your friends and have your very own non-uniform day as a group?
- Keep your passport safe... if you lose it, you will lose your points!

### Now for the safety...

- When you walk, always walk with someone else.
- Make sure you walk sensibly and carefully, watch out for traffic!
- Make sure you understand how to cross a road safely.
- Stop, look and listen, remember, many cars are electric now, so really use your eyes.
- If you ride a bike or scooter, please take care when riding along pavements and push them once you reach school, walking alongside.
- If it is raining, remember your coat!

As a school, we welcome any feedback or information you have in regards to our **Walk to School Scheme**. If you or your child has any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher or Year Leader. Thank you for your continued support.

Laura Dominey,  
Head of School





## Walking safety tips for children

When children start walking on their own to school or other destinations, it can be an exciting time as they assert their independence. But, for parents, it can also be a worrying time, particularly with regard to road safety. Get our top tips for walking safety for children. One of the most effective ways to prepare children is to start young and practise through real experience, like walking to school, the park or the playground.

Children who develop road awareness in primary school are in a much better position when they make the transition to secondary school. It's up to you and your child and will depend on their confidence and the routes they're taking.

**How to teach your child road awareness:** When introducing young children to road awareness it's important to bear in mind that they perceive traffic in different ways to adults. They can't always judge the speed or distance of vehicles or where the sound is coming from because their peripheral vision is two-thirds that of an adult. Children can also be easily distracted.

### What you can do:

- set an example: stop, look and listen, don't take risks and avoid using your mobile phone when crossing the road
- bend down to their eye level to get an idea of what they can and can't see
- find a safe place to cross where you can see easily, ideally at a crossing or away from parked cars and when it's clear, walk straight across
- talk about the traffic you see on your way and the best places to cross, and ask questions about the speed and size of different vehicles
- in quiet areas, gradually allow your children to practice making decisions about where and when to cross the road.

For more information and advice about road safety, visit The Department for Transport's [Think! Education](#) site.

**Encourage Independence:** As children reach upper primary school they will want to become more independent. Use this time to reinforce their road awareness and gradually encourage them to make their own decisions:

- practice walking to school and to other destinations together. Start to let them lead the way and make decisions about where and when to cross
- once you're both confident, they could walk a little further ahead
- when they are ready to go it alone, work out a route together using quieter roads and avoiding busy junctions. Walk the route with them to point out good crossing points and things to watch out for
- encourage them to walk with local friends (you may want to set some ground rules with other parents first)
- remind them to avoid distractions such as chatting to friends, using mobile phones or wearing earphones when crossing roads.