Bridgewater Primary

Together rain or shine

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Walking to School in Year 5 & 6 - Action Required

Dear Year 4 & 5 Parents,

In Berkhamsted, when they move up from Year 4 to Year 5, most children are allowed to walk to school with their friends, unaccompanied by an adult.

At Bridgewater, we support the tradition of independent walking for our pupils as they move into Upper Key Stage 2. Current Year 4 children took part in pedestrian training led by the Hertfordshire Active and Safer Travel Team this term. We would recommend that parents remind children about pedestrian road safety so that they fully understand the importance of being safe when walking to school. In the Autumn term of 2024, the Active and Safer Travel Team will come into school again to run "Distractions" training for the new Year 5 children. This training highlights the importance of paying attention while walking to and from school and crossing roads and not being distracted, for example by looking at a mobile phone.

Why allow your children to walk to school independently?

- We want to encourage key skills such as independence, self-reliance and time management.
- Independent walking is a good way for pupils to develop social skills by mixing with children they might not ordinarily see quite so much at school, as the groups tend to pick up children who live locally on the way.
- This is a useful mid-way step to preparing children for confident, independent travel when they move on to secondary school in two years' time.

But we live too far away to walk...

We understand that some of you live quite a distance away and need to drive or take a bus. Could you drop your children off some distance away and let them walk the rest of the way with friends? You will save yourself the trouble of finding a car parking space at the same time. In previous years, children have been dropped off at the sports centre and walked from there. Others have been dropped at the train station and joined friends walking along Bridgewater Road. This will apply to lots of you. Why not allow your Year 5 child to walk on ahead, so that he or she can feel independent?

Permission for Year 5 & 6 Children to Walk Home

For safeguarding reasons, we need your consent for your child to walk home unaccompanied by an adult.

Please can you log in to your Arbor app to give consent for your child to walk home. You'll see a 'notice' on the main dashboard for your Year 5 or 6 child. Make sure to consent or decline. We ask that you refresh this consent annually, so please log in to give your consent for the coming year.

We ask that you also read our mobile phone letter as some children may start to use a mobile phone in Year 5.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Andrea Bettridge
Headteacher