

WoW! -Walk on Wednesdays

Walk on Wednesdays is a joint initiative between Ann Edwards Primary School and South Cerney Parish Council. The aim of the scheme is to encourage children to walk to school, for the following reasons:

Healthier lifestyles

With childhood obesity on the increase, walking to school is a practical way of getting exercise without needing to spend any extra time or money.

Safer roads for all

The amount of traffic on our roads can make them dangerous places, and this is the reason many parents feel an obligation to drive their children to school. Schemes like Walk on Wednesdays can make the roads safer, giving more parents the confidence to let their children travel to school independently.

Greater independence and confidence

Walking to school is a good way for children to make friends and gain confidence. Sustrans, the charity that develops the National Cycle Network for the government, has found that walking and cycling are the ways children would prefer to get to school, if they were given the choice.

Increased academic achievement

In some areas children who walk or cycle to school have been found to achieve better academic results than those who arrive by car. In 2002 California Department of Education had a State study which showed that physically fit children perform better academically.

What is Walk on Wednesdays?

To encourage the pupils at Ann Edwards, any child who scores 30 (out of 38) 'Wednesdays' will be entered for a year-group prize draw, and they are given recognition of their achievement by the Head Teacher.

The class that scores the most 'Wednesdays' will win "The Parish Prize" - donated by South Cerney Parish Council - which involves a day trip for the whole class. All children can thus be involved in the success of the scheme.

Children can score a 'walk' in three ways: if they walk to school; if they are in Year 6, have passed their cycling proficiency test, and cycle to school; or if they arrive by bus.

Not everyone can easily take part

We appreciate that some families have difficult choices: they have to balance the practicalities of where they live; when they have to go to work; and the safety of their children. Taking the children to school by car can sometimes be the only way to achieve all three of these goals. The main disadvantage of schemes like Walk on Wednesdays is that they can make those families feel frustrated: they are doing their best, but feel they might have the disapproval of the school. This is certainly not the intention. The idea is to provide a new environment in which more parents feel able to allow their children to walk to school, either unaccompanied, or accompanied by their family or friends.