

## **Walk to School at Ravensmead**

**Issue Date – 23/10/2009**

Pupils at a Newcastle school put their best foot forward as part of a month long campaign.

Around 320 youngsters at Ravensmead Community Primary School stepped out to enjoy a healthier and happier life during Walk to School Month.

Staffordshire County Council's Road Safety Unit is hosted the initiative which is part of a national scheme to promote the health benefits of leading an active life.

The campaign also helps to reduce the number of cars travelling to school which cuts harmful CO2 emissions. Fewer cars around schools has the added bonus of boosting safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Walk to School Month has been going from strength to strength year on year with more parents and children joining the movement annually. This year over 26,300 children are taking part in the campaign across the county.

The scheme goes hand in hand with the walking bus phenomenon which has proved to be a massive success in Staffordshire since it was launched in 1999.

The county has the highest number of walking buses running in the UK with an impressive 148 groups currently in operation.

Local County Councillor Dylis Cornes said: "It is excellent to see so many young people taking part in this initiative. A walk before school will not only boost children's energy and fitness levels, it will also help to reduce congestion on our roads and cut the amount of harmful CO2 emissions that are causing climate change."

Deputy Headteacher Julie Weston added: "Walk to School Month is all about educating pupils on the importance of taking regular exercise and about road safety. The impact of children taking a stroll to school, rather than being driven, is huge. It leads to fewer cars on the area's roads which makes it safe for pedestrians and cyclists and encourages young people to enjoy exercise which has a knock on effect on their health and well being."

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