

## **Lucky Maleena celebrates after scooping an early Christmas present**

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Christmas came early for one lucky youngster today when she scooped a brand new bike as part of the Walk to School campaign.

Delighted Maleena Moorhouse's name was drawn from thousands of children who take part in the high profile road safety initiative.

The year six pupil was presented with a mountain bike and matching helmet during a special assembly held at Landywood Primary School in Great Wyrley.

Local Staffordshire County Councillors Mike Lawrence and Kath Perry will attend the celebration.

Maleena has been joining around 16 of her fellow pupils on the walk to school since May 2009.

Staffordshire County Council's Road Safety Unit launched the Walking Bus initiative in January 1999 and more than 100 routes are currently running.

It is the most successful scheme of its kind in the country.

The first walking bus in Staffordshire was at St Nicholas' First School in Codsall and is still in operation today.

Parents, teachers and members of the road safety team work together to create organised walk to school groups, headed and tailed by responsible adults.

Thousands of children regularly walk, both morning and afternoon, with many parents volunteering and taking turns on rota to help out.

Local county councillor Mike Lawrence, Cabinet member for Economy, Skills and Enterprise, said: "It is great that so many Staffordshire children like Maleena have embraced the Walking Buses over the last decade. The initiative is a winning combination – it is healthy, social and environmentally friendly."

Fellow local county councillor Kath Perry added: "This is a wonderful early Christmas present for Maleena. She clearly has a passion for walking and now she can enjoy even more fresh air by whizzing around on her new mountain bike. A bit of exercise before school is a great way for young people to clear their heads before settling down to their classes."

County Councillor Kath Perry and Maleena Moorhouse, aged 10, celebrate her early Christmas gift with fellow Landywood Primary School pupils



Sue Benton (left), Walking Bus Coordinator, and County Councillor Kath Perry (right) with 10-year-old Maleena Moorhouse

