

Lucky Kayce scoops an early Christmas present

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Christmas came early for one lucky youngster when she was presented with a brand new bike as part of the county council's walking bus scheme.

Delighted Kayce Jackson's name has been drawn from thousands of children who take part in the high profile road safety initiative.

Six-year-old Kayce was presented with a mountain bike and matching helmet during a special assembly held at Knypersley First School, Newpool, Road on Friday.

And it was a double celebration as Sharon Black, who helps to lead the school's walking bus, also won tickets to Camelot theme park in the Christmas prize draw for volunteers.

Local Staffordshire County Councillor Ian Lawson and Stoke City FC mascot Pottermus attended the celebration.

Kayce has been joining around 15 of her fellow pupils on the Walking Bus since it was set up in March.

County Councillor Ian Lawson said: "This is lovely early Christmas present for Kayce. She has proved that she is already a keen walker and, with a bit of practice, she will soon be whizzing around on two wheels. Kayce and her fellow pupils have really embraced the walking bus initiative which is a healthy, social and environmentally friendly way to start the school day."

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.



(left to right) County Councillor Ian Lawson, Pottermus and Walking Bus Coordinator Pam Griffin with Kayce Jackson, aged six, and her brand new bike.