

NATIONAL BIKE WEEK
BIKE TO SCHOOL DAYS
BATTLE AND LANGTON SCHOOL – JUNE 2009

Battle and Langton CE Primary School have been trying to promote walking and cycling to school for some years now. Recent surveys conducted among children and parents show they are very keen to get onto bikes and cycle to school. Cycle training is an annual event in our school and cycle parking has been built for the children's bikes. Nationally, we are all being encouraged to ride our bikes, for all the obvious environmental and health benefits it brings, especially to our children.

Here at Battle and Langton, if you talk to many of the children and parents they will tell you that they want to walk or cycle to school, but then, take one look at Battle High Street and North Trade Road and you will understand why they don't!

The school is continuing to campaign for the provision of a traffic-free, safe walking and cycling route to school in Battle and in doing so, have participated in many National events, such as Walk to School Week, Bike to School Week and National Bike Week, to try to encourage more children and families to walk and cycle. All these events have seen huge support and during our recent Walk to School Week, it was great to see a "school run" of children and parents walking and on bikes, instead of jostling for parking places and stationary in traffic jams!

This week, throughout the school, the children have been using the bicycle as a theme for their work. On Thursday 18th June, as part of their work on the history of bicycles and cycling, they had a visit from the newly formed Bexhill Classic Cycles Group, who came in Edwardian and Victorian costume with their veteran bikes and answered many of the children's questions.

Writing, art, science and even maths lessons have been linked to bicycles in a week which culminated in over 300 of our children bringing their bikes into school for 'Bike to School Day'. Some cycled in with their parents and some will come by car. Some came in early, to enjoy a Biker's Breakfast with their parents. All the children had the opportunity to develop and test their cycling skills on a challenging obstacle course. Cycle mechanics, Nick from Hastings Cycles and Mike Cooper our ESCC Cycle trainer provided a "Dr Bike" surgery to check the road-worthiness of bikes. There were "Dress up your Bike" and "Fancy Helmet" competitions and a display of BMX skills provided by 'Seventies BMX' of Hastings. The day ended with some 'Slow Races' and prizes and certificates were awarded.

We are hoping that events such as ours will highlight once again, the need to provide our children with the opportunity to walk or ride to school in safety, with their family or friends.

Please sign our petition for a safe "Greenway", a multi-user, traffic free path, which would provide an alternative and safe route to school as well as an amenity for all Battle residents and visitors. Please ask in the school office!

You might be interested in the following websites too!

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/what-we-do/safe-routes-to-schools>

<http://www.bikeforall.net/favicon.ico>

<http://www.changeyourworld.org.uk/>

<http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/>