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Dear Modeshift STARS champion,

We appreciate that the return to school in September will be under different circumstances. With more pupils returning to schools as lockdown eases, available space needs to be used effectively to ensure everyone can get around safely. There are a range of resources and opportunities relating to safe and sustainable travel that we can continue to support you to utilise and promote.

**Modeshift STARS**

With over 50% of schools in Birmingham now registered with this [free online scheme](http://www.modeshiftstars.org/), we’d like to help more schools to take the next step and complete a travel plan. A school travel plan identifies activities and opportunities which can help to reduce congestion and improve air quality and road safety at the school gates. Modeshift STARS makes it quick and easy to complete, and your school could be awarded with a nationally recognised accreditation! Get in touch if you’d like further support or would be interested in attending a free online training session.

**Social distancing/emergency school street measures**

Birmingham City Council are supporting schools with planning for increased attendance by pupils of different ages, by supporting the installation of emergency school streets measures including temporary [Car Free School Streets](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/carfreeschoolstreets), and [the restriction of parking](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/3343/school_streets_keep_clear_toolkit). If you feel that your school could benefit from additional temporary/emergency measures please contact us: **connected@birmingham.gov.uk**.

A [risk assessment](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/16321/risk_assessment_for_schools_updated_10_june) around the journey to and from school has been provided. In addition to this, further guidance has been produced related to [social distancing at the school gate](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/blog/school-nb/post/464/noticeboard-11-june-2020/#gate).

**School Crossing Wardens (lollipop person)**

We wanted to make you aware of some changes in how parents/carers and children approach their school crossing wardens. They would still like people to cross with them, but remember the social distancing rules below when using a crossing site:

* Stand further away from the patrol and wait for instruction to cross.
* Children who have not seen their warden for some time may be excited and wish to greet them.  Please remind them not to make any physical contact e.g. touch/ high five.
* Be aware that the warden may be operating from a non- receiving side of the crossing, which children and parents are not normally used to.

These measures have been put in place to protect your school crossing warden and your school community. We would be grateful if you could communicate this to parents and children.

**Keep Clear School Streets**

As part of this [toolkit](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/15397/keep_clear_toolkit) designed to address school gate parking issues, we have a number of supporting resources including leaflets and banners. Please let us know if you would be interested in running a campaign at your school.

**Staff Webinars**

Our next summer webinar will provide you with information and resource links to support the topic of ‘Transition Travel to Secondary School’ (in partnership with Transport for West Midlands). Please see below schedule for further webinars planned in the Autumn term. To register for a free place please email **connected@birmingham.gov.uk**.

| **FREE ONLINE SCHOOL WEBINAR DATES** |
| --- |
| **Date** | **Time** | **Topic** |
| 8 July 2020 | 10.30am to 11.30am | Transition Travel to Secondary School |
| 8th October 2020 | TBC | Modeshift STARS Clean Air *Virtual* Celebration Event  |
| 14th October 2020 | 4.00-5.00pm | Focus on travel in and around Perry Barr |
| 4th November 2020 | 4.00-5.00pm | Road STARS |
| 9th December 2020 | 4.00-5.00pm | Clean Air Cops |

**Walking**

**Living Streets** have a few remaining places for any schools wishing to sign up to their free [WOW](https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/wow) all year round walking reward scheme. To register please email Raji before 10 July to ensure resources arrive for the start of next term: **raji.takhar@livingstreets.org.uk****.**

Check out their new transition to secondary school resources on the [Living Streets website](https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/secondary-schools/transitions).

**Cycling**

**Win a bike-** Sustrans, the walking and cycling charity, have developed a survey looking at how children and their parents/carers travel to and from school. **The survey is only 10 questions long and should take less than 4 minutes to fill out**. This survey is really important for determining how we can make school runs safer, easier and more sustainable. Everyone that completes the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win a bike worth up to £400 including accessories (helmet and lock)! The survey gives parents a voice and can help in creating a dialogue on how we can create better school runs. We’d be grateful if you could share the below link with all your parents and encourage them to take part (deadline 19 July).

<https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/birmingham-schools-parent-survey>

**Bikeability** -The Active Well Being Societyare taking advance bookings for Bikeability training sessions and hope to be back up and running asap! Please contact Donna Spence for further information at **donna.spence@birmingham.gov.uk** . Don’t forget to check out Bikeability’s range of [creative ideas and lesson plans](https://bikeability.org.uk/support/school-resources/).

**Bike Maths** - We still have some games up for grabs! [Bike Maths](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20163/safer_greener_healthier_travel/1852/safer_greener_healthier_school_travel/6) is a fantastic team game which enables children to practise their maths skills, while learning about how to build a bike. Please email **connected@birmingham.gov.uk** for your free copy.

**Funding opportunities**

**Cycle parking-** Transport for West Midlands has announced funding for free cycle stands for schools, businesses and community establishments. For further information and access to the application form, please use the following link: <https://www.tfwm.org.uk/development/cycling/cycle-parking-for-organisations/>

**Young Active Travel Trust Funding -** If your school is looking for some extra funding to support their Modeshift STARS Travel Plan activities, the Young Active Travel Trust is offering grants of up to £1,000. [Find out more about applying for the grant.](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20163/road_safety/367/young_active_travel_initiative/3) The deadline for the next funding round is **Friday 10 July**.

**We hope that you enjoy a well-deserved summer break! We remain available to support you over the summer holidays and into the new school term. Please get in touch with us at** **connected@birmingham.gov.uk** **if you’ve got any questions.**

**Visit our web pages for more information about safer, greener, healthier travel to school:** [**www.birmingham.gov.uk/modeshiftstars**](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/modeshiftstars)

**Share the fun on social media! Tag us using:**

**Twitter:** [**@bhamconnected**](https://twitter.com/bhamconnected)

**Facebook:** [**@bhamconnected**](https://www.facebook.com/bhamconnected/)

**Get moving on the way to school and be a Modeshift STARS superstar!**