



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Schools Go Smarter newsletter, the place to find out about sustainable travel initiatives in Northumberland.

For more information about anything you see here please email tracy.aitken@northumberland.gov.uk

Northeast Regional Modeshift Awards

The Modeshift Regional Awards events took place in early November with 124 schools shortlisted from 28 Local Authorities across the country.

Northumberland was very fortunate to have 3 amazing schools nominated, with **Allendale Primary School** winning **STARS School of the Region** and **School of the Local Authority**.

A massive shout out to our other nominees Stannington First School and NCEA Bishops Primary School, who both did fantastically well.

Here's a quick snapshot of Allendale's achievements; car use has been reduced from 23% to 1% by encouraging park and stride as well as walking and wheeling to school and they have delivered over 150 initiatives since starting to work on STARS, ranging from setting up active breaktimes to starting a scooter club.

Good luck to Allendale Primary School will now represent Northumberland at the National STARS School Travel Awards event in March 2024.



International Walk to School Month

We had a fantastic Walk to School Month in October with 28 schools and almost 8000 pupils taking part in 4 weeks of themed activities.

W2SM continues to be one of our most popular initiatives and a great way to kick start the academic year. Some of the highlights this year included Cramlington Eastlea Primary's bike and hike to Blyth beach, a village walk with a Sea Shanty sing a long at Stamfordham Primary School and a bike stunt display show at Bishops Primary School.



Love Northumberland



Does your school have an amazing environmental project you want to tell the world about, then why not enter the [LOVE Northumberland awards](#).

Now in their 14th year the awards are held in June at Alnwick Gardens and help to celebrate the very best in community environmental work across Northumberland.

In 2023 The Schools Sustainable Travel Award category was won by **Mowbray Primary School** with their [Sea to Source](#) project. There are several

categories schools could enter depending on their project. Watch out for more information about how to enter early next year and for some inspiration check out some previous winners [here](#).

Ride Leader Training

We've had a bumper crop of school staff taking part in our Ride Leader training courses this year and have delivered 3 courses, training 25 school staff.

These staff are now accredited as Level 1 British Cycling Ride Leaders and can take pupils out on led rides in their local areas. We will let you know how they get on with their exciting cycling projects.



Bikeability Survey

If you haven't completed our Bikeability survey yet, you have until **Friday 12 January** to give us your views on Bikeability, you can find the link to the survey [here](#).



Discounts for schools

Schools can access discounts for cycles and equipment of up to 25% through our partnership with the Bikeability Trust. Companies offering discounts include Frog, Squish, Decathlon and RideMinded. **If your school wants to purchase some**

bikes, please get in touch for more information and contact details to access these discounts.

Creative Walking Book

We ran a workshop with Professor Dee Heddon from Glasgow University to kickstart our **Schools Creative Walkbook** project, which we are rolling out next year. Watch this space for updates on how you can get involved and create some walking recipes at your school. In the meantime, you can have a look at our **Big Northumberland Gear Change Creative Walking Book** [here](#).



Schools Mode of Travel Survey- look out for information early next term about how to complete your school's annual mode of travel survey. We ask schools to take part in this survey every year to collect information about how pupils travel to school in Northumberland.

Northumberland Line Rail Safety update

Work continues on the Northumberland Line ahead of passenger trains returning between Ashington and Newcastle in Summer 2024. Most of the track works have now been completed and works on constructing stations is well underway, with Ashington station almost complete.

As we head towards the start of passenger services, our attention is moving to getting rail safety messages out to schools that are close to the line.

With more trains running on the line, these safety messages are really important and if you're school hasn't booked in yet, then please email mark.ellis@northumberland.gov.uk and we'll get you added to the list. The sessions can be delivered in an assembly format or to smaller groups, whatever suits your school.

Visit the [Northumberland Line](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk) website to sign up to our newsletter.



Road Safety Competition

A huge thank to all the schools participating in road safety events from October to December. To be entered into our competition remember to share a road safety video message or newsletter that your school has used.

The winning school will be visited by Northumbria Police, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service and NCC and have a free Road Safety event at their school. Deadline is **22 December**, send entries to carol.watson@northumberland.gov.uk

70 Years of School Crossing Patrols

School Crossing Patrols play an important role in keeping families safe while crossing busy roads to and from school. Northumberland School Crossing Patrol Officers celebrated their Platinum Jubilee with an afternoon tea at County Hall, Morpeth. The SCP's were made to feel extra special with artwork and letters sent in by Malvin's Close Primary Academy and Newsham Primary Schools.

Northumberland currently has a number of vacant School Crossing Patrol posts. If you would like to know more about the role, advertise this at your school or find out how to apply go to: [Northumberland County Council School Crossing Patrols](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



WOW Top 10 Leader board!

Ellington Primary and **Stannington First Schools** both bagged a place on the Regional Top 10 WOW Leader Board for Walk to School Month in October, with Stannington also coming 3rd on the national board.

WOW is the year round, walk to school initiative from Living Streets where pupils are rewarded for active travel to school with collectable badges. We still have a few fully funded places available for this year, you can find out more about WOW [here](https://www.livingstreets.org.uk).

***Please note this offer is only available for schools who haven't taken part in WOW previously.**



Schools Go Smarter Padlet

We have been adding more information to our Padlet, [have a look around here](#) and let us know what you think. We hope it will become a one stop shop for everything sustainable travel related. If you have a great story to tell, a project to inspire us or something you would like to see featured let us know.

Modeshift STARS News

Congratulations to schools who either achieved or renewed their Modeshift STARS accreditation last term.

Allendale Primary School -Platinum
Grange View First School - Bronze
Mowbray Primary School Bronze



Modeshift STARS updates

If you've logged on to [Modeshift STARS](#) recently you will have noticed some changes, including reordering, and renaming some of the tabs, plus new fields being added. The system underwent significant updates earlier this term, this is to make sure the system is in line with the national requirements for a school travel plan. If you've not used STARS for a while or would like some help getting started, email tracy.aitken@northumberland.gov.uk

Dates for your diary next year

Annual Mode of Travel Survey	Spring Term
WOW Top Ten Challenge	1-29 February
Show The Love — The Climate Coalition	1-28 February
Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel - Sustrans.org.uk	11-22 March
Modeshift Spring Accreditation deadline	31 March
Brake Beep Beep Days	24 April
Walk to School Week Living Streets	20-24 May
Northumberland Bike Month	1-30 June
Bike Week Cycling UK	10-16 June
Great Big Green Week	8-16 June
Clean Air Day	tbc June
Bikeability Cycle to School Week	September tbc
World Car Free Day	22 September
International Walk to School Month	1-31 October
Road Safety Week	November dates tbc

Merry Christmas and see you next term !