

Hampshire pupils lead the way in national walking initiative

Pupils in Hampshire are celebrating after securing a place on a national leader board of active schools. Crofton Hammond Infant School is one of ten schools on the national leaderboard for the WOW Walk of Fame for October 2022.

Crofton Hammond Infant School takes part in [WOW - the walk to school challenge](#) from charity Living Streets. WOW sees pupils record how they get to school using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker with those who walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or 'Park and Stride' to school being awarded a monthly WOW badge.

The Walk of Fame helps boost pupils' engagement in WOW and increase walking rates at schools. With a few challenges scattered across the school year, the Walk of Fame supports pupils' health and wellbeing while reducing congestion and pollution around the gates.

This term, pupils at Crofton Hammond Infant School took part in the autumn WOW Walk of Fame Challenge which asked them to walk to school as many times as possible between 3 and 31 October. Pupils who live too far away or are not able to walk the whole way to school were encouraged to Park and Stride by asking their parents or carers to park at least ten minutes away from the school and walk or wheel the rest of the way.

A generation ago, 70 per cent of primary school aged children walked to school, now it's 49 per cent. Living Streets is working to reverse the decline in walking rates. WOW schools typically see an increase in walking rates by 23 per cent with a 30 per cent reduction in cars driving to the school gates.

Nationally, **43 per cent** of 5–10-year-olds are driven to school¹. However, just **7 per cent** of journeys recorded on the WOW Travel Tracker by pupils at Crofton Hammond Infant School are car trips all the way to the school gates.

Sian Hosmer, Headteacher at Crofton Hammond Infant School said:

"Pupils at the school really enjoy walking to school and the Walk of Fame challenge is a great incentive. I'm delighted to see that their hard work and enthusiasm has paid off and is being celebrated.

"The teachers here have noticed the positive change when pupils walk to school – and I'm sure that it will encourage them to keep walking!"

Stephen Edwards, Chief Executive, Living Streets said:

"It's fantastic to celebrate the achievements of Crofton Hammond Infant School as part of the WOW Walk of Fame. Walking to school helps children to meet the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity a day needed to stay fit, healthy and happy and it can also reduce congestion, air pollution and road danger outside the school gates.

"It's great that pupils at Crofton Hammond Infant School are benefitting from walking to school. They are an inspiration and I'm sure that they'll encourage other children and their families to follow in their footsteps."

¹ National Travel Survey 2021. Table 0615 [National Travel Survey: 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2021)

WOW pupils also celebrated International Walk to School Month during October, when families around the world are encouraged to leave the car at home and walk, wheel or cycle to school instead.

Notes to editor:

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Living Streets is the UK charity for everyday walking. We want to create a nation where walking is the natural choice for everyday, local journeys; free from congested roads and pollution, reducing the risk of preventable illnesses and social isolation. We want to achieve a better walking environment and to inspire people of all generations to enjoy the benefits the simple act of walking brings.

WOW is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker. Pupils who walk, wheel, cycle or scoot at least once a week for a month are rewarded with a badge. The programme is available in English and Welsh.

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/wow>

WOW schools can take part in the Walk of Fame challenge to encourage pupils to increase their active travel efforts with the aim of topping the local and national WOW leaderboard.

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walkoffame>