

**Brockley Primary School Newsletter 24/25**

**Friday 28th March 2025**



**Attendance Update**

Our whole school attendance this week is **95.4%**. This is below both National average and the Westminster average. The lower than usual percentage is due to illness and **12** families were absent for a day or more at the end of last term and the beginning of this term. We want to remind you that we are unable to grant any holiday leave a duty to refer unauthorised leave of over 10 sessions (5 days) to the Local Authority who may pursue a fine.

**Why does attendance matter so much?**

Research by the Department for Education (DfE) shows a direct relationship between school attendance rates and GCSE performance.

Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to perform better academically.

This is because consistent attendance ensures greater exposure to instruction, classroom interactions, and learning resources.

Studies show that even a small amount of missed school can negatively impact a pupil's performance. Persistent absenteeism (missing 10% or more of school days) is particularly harmful.

Please make sure you send your child in every day for the rest of term.

**Attendance**

**Week Ending 28/03/2025**

**School attendance is a legal requirement and with the new Penalty Notice Fine Procedures in place it is vitally important that your child attends school on time daily.**

**Each week in the newsletter we'll report on the attendance for each class so as a community you can see how well our children attend school.**

**The national attendance target for all schools in England is at least 96%**

90% + below	In-between 90% & 96%	96% + above
Zebra	93.67%	
Monkey	96.43%	
Giraffe	95%	
Elephant	93.68%	
Lion	96%	

**Number for reporting absences and for any queries**

01246-823344

**Social Media**

Follow us Facebook: [Facebook](#)

**School website for all policies and information**

[www.brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk)

**School email address**

[info@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk)

**Headteacher's direct email address**

[headteacher@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk)

**Safeguarding Reports and Queries**

[safeguarding@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk)

[Derby Safeguarding Children Partnership \(ddscp.org.uk\)](http://Derby Safeguarding Children Partnership (ddscp.org.uk))

**We have received concerns from the community regarding children riding bikes and scooters in an unsafe manner. This poses a risk to both the children themselves and others traveling to and from school. Please remind your child that pavements are for pedestrians and that they should be considerate, making safe choices to help keep everyone protected.**

# Cycling - the facts



Riding a bike is great fun. It's good for our bodies and good for the planet as well. But cycling can be dangerous, and drivers and cyclists need to take proper care to keep each other safe. Cyclists are some of the most vulnerable road users, and children are at particular risk. About 100 children under the age of 11 are killed or seriously injured in cycling collisions every year.<sup>1</sup>











## Healthy bodies, healthy planet

Cycling is an excellent form of exercise and can help with both weight loss and physical fitness. For children, cycling can help fine-tune skills like balance and coordination, and can even boost brain power by increasing blood flow to the brain.<sup>2</sup>

Cycling also helps to keep the planet healthy. More than a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions come from cars and other vehicles,<sup>3</sup> and this pollution can ruin communities' ability to enjoy their local areas. If more people choose to cycle instead of driving, there will be less traffic on the roads and the air will be cleaner to breathe.



## Cycling is good for our health, good for the planet and good for our economy too

-  =  Improves fitness
-  =  Boosts brain power
-  =  Increases wellbeing
-  =  Lowers pollution
-  =  Reduces congestion

## Children should cycle with a grown up on safe cycle paths

Traffic is heavy, it hits hard and can hurt people, so cyclists should avoid riding on the road where they can. Most roads are unsafe for children, especially fast and bendy rural roads and busy roads in towns and cities that do not have separate spaces for cyclists. Children can perceive hazards differently to adults, and may think that if they can see an approaching car, the driver can see them too.<sup>4</sup> Children tend to concentrate on what is right in front of them and might not notice things at the edges of their vision.<sup>5</sup> This can affect their awareness of traffic.

Find out more at [www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk](http://www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk)

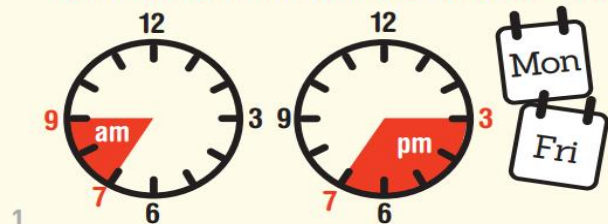
Younger children in particular can find it difficult to pay attention to more than one aspect of a potentially dangerous situation, and generally speaking children cannot accurately judge the speed and distance of approaching traffic until they are about 12 years old.

## Training builds skills

Around the age of 10, some children begin riding their bikes to school by themselves. In 2016, almost half (44%) of all cyclist deaths and injuries happened at times when children would be travelling to and from schools – on weekdays between 7am and 9am, or 3pm and 7pm.<sup>6</sup>

Training helps give children the skills and confidence they need to prepare them for cycling safely on the roads. Organisations like Bikeability, Cycling Scotland and Cycle Training Wales run training sessions for all ages and abilities, and cover topics from balance and control to planning independent journeys on busier roads. Schools can arrange for professional trainers to deliver courses with their pupils.

## 44% of cycling casualties occur at times when children are travelling to and from school



Continued >

Road Safety Week  Cycling - the facts

Ages 5-11

**Protecting ourselves**

Although there are no laws that require cyclists to wear helmets in the UK, Brake and the Highway code recommend wearing them on all cycling trips.<sup>7</sup> Almost a quarter of cyclists involved in crashes suffer serious head injuries,<sup>8</sup> and although helmets can't stop a crash from happening and can never stop all injuries, wearing a well-fitted, good-quality helmet can protect children's heads if they fall off their bike, reducing the risk of serious head or brain injury by 69%.<sup>9</sup> High-visibility and reflective clothing can also increase a cyclist's chances of being seen,<sup>10</sup> and could reduce the likelihood of being involved in a crash.<sup>11</sup>



**Get involved**

For Road Safety Week 2018, we are shouting out about the safety of those on two wheels, and encouraging everyone to be Bike Smart. We can all play our part in raising awareness about the importance of protecting those on bikes and this year we are asking drivers to be Bike Smart by looking out for those on two wheels, driving safely and slowly and giving riders plenty of space, cyclists to be Bike Smart with safe riding behaviours and appropriate training and equipment, and policy-makers to be Bike Smart by mandating lifesaving technology and prioritising cycle friendly infrastructure.

**Wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of serious head or brain injury by 69%**



It's really important that a cycle helmet fits correctly – if it moves around at all, the level of protection will be reduced, and if it's too small it won't be able to protect the lower part of the head. The straps should form a 'v' under the child's ears without them being able to fit more than two fingers between the straps and their chin. The gap between their eyebrows and the helmet should be no bigger than the width of two fingers.<sup>12</sup>

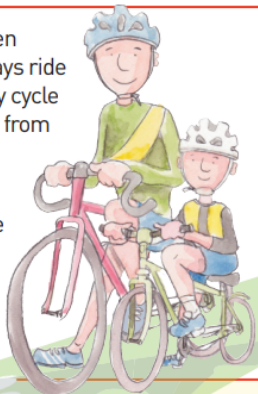
**Smart drivers are Bike Smart**

Smart drivers are responsible and considerate of other road users, particularly vulnerable road users such as cyclists and motorcyclists. Our short explanation film, infographics and driver advice sheet outline simple but really important measures that all drivers can use to make roads safer for everyone on two wheels. These are available in your Road Safety Week action pack. Please share these messages with parents and carers.



Brake recommends that children under the age of 10 should always ride with a grown up and should only cycle on safe, segregated paths away from motorised traffic.

Our short, animated film for children called We Love to Cycle explains how to stay as safe as possible when riding a bike. This is available in your Road Safety Week action pack.



**References**

1. Department for Transport (2017), Reported Road Casualties Great Britain 2016, table ras30024
2. Hiura M. et al (2014), Changes in Cerebral Blood Flow During Steady-State Cycling Exercise, Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism 34(3), 389-96
3. Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2018), 2016 UK greenhouse gas emissions: final figures – statistical summary
4. Wierda, M. and Brookhuis (1991), K. A., Analysis of Cycling Skill: A Cognitive Approach, Applied Cognitive Psychology 5(2), 113-122
5. Lenton, S. and Finlay, F. (2018), Public health approaches to safer cycling for children based on developmental and physiological readiness: implications for practice, British Medical Journal 2(1)
6. Department for Transport (2017), Reported Road Casualties Great Britain 2016
7. Department for Transport (2015), The Highway Code: Rules for cyclists (59 to 82)
8. Brake (2017), Road collisions responsible for 1 in 5 trauma admissions to hospitals <http://roadsafetyweek.org.uk/new/638-trauma-admissions>
9. Olivier, J. and Craighton, P. (2016), Bicycle injuries and helmet Use: A systematic review and meta-analysis, International Journal of Epidemiology 46(1), 372
10. Cycling UK (2017), What's legal – and what's not – on your bike? <https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/whats-legal-and-whats-not-your-bike>
11. Kwan, I. and Mapstone, J. (2006), Increasing pedestrian and cyclist visibility to prevent deaths and injuries, Cochrane Library [https://www.cochrane.org/CD003438/INJ\\_increasing-pedestrian-and-cyclist-visibility-to-prevent-deaths-and-injuries](https://www.cochrane.org/CD003438/INJ_increasing-pedestrian-and-cyclist-visibility-to-prevent-deaths-and-injuries)
12. Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (2018), Road Safety Factsheet: Cycle helmets <https://www.rospa.com/rospaweb/docs/advice-services/road-safety/cyclists/cycle-helmets-factsheet.pdf>

28.03.2025

## Dates for Next Week

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Easter Competition – Design and wear an Easter Bonnet and/or Decorate an egg

Children should bring their entries into school on Wednesday morning – please ensure their name is on any items.

Easter Bonnet Parade & Competition Winners Announced during the End of Term Assembly at 2pm – Parents are welcome to attend

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

#### SAT's Meeting – Year 6 parents

SATs are the Standardised Assessment Tests that are given to children in Year 6. The SATs take place over four days, starting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May ending on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May. We would like to invite you to a meeting on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025** after school at **3.15pm** in Lion Class where you will find out all the information you need, ideas on how to support your child and give you an opportunity to ask any questions.

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Last Day of Spring 2

Children are invited to attend in non-uniform

Reception to Y6 Disco from 2pm (children only)

School closes at 3pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

## Start of the Summer Term 2025

School will re-open after the Easter break on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 8am for our Greggs Foundation Breakfast Club and 8:30am gates open for Meet & Greet.

Places for Breakfast Club need to be booked in advance via the form using this link once we return but if you would like to trial using the booking form before the holiday, it is live and in action in preparation.

Click and complete the online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/RaT0Jsffw4>



Only my best is good enough

## Students v Teachers



From today until next Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, we have launched a TT Rockstars battle between students and teachers! Please encourage your child to log in and beat the teachers! If your child doesn't know their log in then please speak to their class teachers.

Good luck pupils, you're going to need it!