

Walking Bus Press Release

On Tuesday, October 19th St Bartholomew's Primary School started its new 'walking bus' initiative to encourage pupils to walk all, or part, of the way to school. A walking bus means a group of children walking together, accompanied by parent helpers. A large group of children and parents were joined by Haslemere Mayor Melanie Odell. The walking bus started from Charter Walk, where parents enjoyed free coffee sponsored by Barista, before making its way in crocodile fashion up to the school, led by Freddie Fox, the Golden Boot Challenge mascot.

The walking bus is part of St Bart's continuing commitment to finding greener, more sustainable ways of living. The initiative aims to reduce traffic congestion and thereby improve road safety around the school site on Derby Road, help children develop road awareness and at the same time give the children some healthy exercise and fresh air before school. Mr. Beach, Headmaster at St Bartholomew's said, 'We are really excited by this initiative; it's a great opportunity to encourage our pupils to develop lifelong healthy habits and at the same time address the parking issues at the school'. Walking in a large group can be great fun for children. One six year old pupil commented, 'The walking bus is great, I can walk to school with my friends and we get house points! Pupils will be also encouraged by an incentive scheme kindly supported by the Haslemere Sports Locker, Nobbs the Newsagent, and Cycleworks. One pupil enthused, 'We even get prizes the more we do the walking bus!'

Julian Price, Chairman of Governors, St Bartholomew's school supports the scheme. "The walking bus is a great initiative from many points of view. It encourages safe and healthy lifestyles by allowing our children to walk to school in a safe and controlled environment. This means that they arrive at school having exercised their muscles and oxygenated their brains - a great start to the day. The initiative is also good for the environment because it means less cars in and around Derby Rd at school drop off time. We look forward to the success of this scheme and thank The Parent Reps (especially Nikki Barton), Surrey County Council and Mr Beach and his team at St Bartholomew's in helping to make this happen"

