

KCC - TRANSPORT INNOVATIONS NEWSLETTER

BY: IONA ROGULSKI - TRANSPORT PLANNER



SO LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE NEW "SMARTCARD"

www.kentconnected.org/smartcard

The Smartcard is a new pay-as-you-go travel card which allows passengers to pay for their bus travel without having to scuffle around for change (Uh – Genius!?).

The smartcard closely resembles the capital's Oyster card in that it can be topped up online, at certain libraries or in person on the bus. There's also the ability to set up an "auto top-up", meaning that if the bill payer forgets, the card will have done it, and the user will always have credit!

Nu-Venture, Autocar, Chalkwell, ASD, Farleigh and Go-Coach have been quick to snap up the smartcards as a form of quick and easy payments on their buses. Looking forward, Kent County Council wants to see a smartcard which can be expanded to include train journeys, bike hire, car hire and allow folks an easy door-to-door journey whether that be for work or, as in this case, for the school run!

In my opinion there is an obvious benefit for the parents whose children have access to these bus routes, who may feel reassured to know that come what may, their child has a failsafe, should they get held up, if their child has a smart card with a basic amount of credit. The smartcard also provides a solution to other common concerns - some parents would love for their child to travel to school by bus, but are concerned about them carrying cash...or buying sweets with the bus money! Not only this but as a family, this card can be passed about to multiple users – it is not limited to just one named traveller!

DON'T FORGET THE RPS LAUNCH!

Don't forget! The 1st March marks the launch of our long awaited Responsible Parking Squad campaign! At last, all secondary schools can get online and sign up for KCC's newest Responsible Parking initiative at www.responsibleparking.co.uk/secondary

The first award winning Responsible Parking initiative was originally designed to offer advice and resources to enable primary schools to run their own initiatives and campaigns to promote a safer school environment. So we've built on this success and created the "RPS - Responsible Parking Squad", which is a new toolkit especially designed for our Kent secondary schools.

...(continued on page 2)

@KENTSCHOOLRUN
followers : 48

" Our stunt-man Alex is easy to put back together... Other little people, not so much. Park Safely and let them hop out in a safe place." 13/02/2017



www.responsibleparking.co.uk
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NEWSLETTER

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HEADS UP:**The Big Pedal**

I received an email this week from our Sustrans friends about their Big Pedal Campaign; Here's what they had to say:

"We have a new theme for 2017, Around the World in 10 Days. Your wallchart will take you on a journey around the world, stopping off in a different location on each day of the challenge.

Joanna Rowsell Shand is supporting The Big Pedal for the second year running. She said: "The Big Pedal campaign is a fantastic way for kids to cycle together whilst learning about the rules of the road in a fun, engaging way. I hope this year as many schools as possible will take part in the UK's largest school cycling and scooting event."

There are fantastic prizes up for grabs on every day of the event. If over 15% of your pupils scoot or cycle to school on each day of The Big Pedal, you will be entered into a daily draw to win prizes including BMX and Mountain Bike stunt shows.

It's completely free to enter so make sure you get the date in the diary now. For more information and to register, please visit our website - <http://bigpedal.org.uk/>

**DON'T FORGET THE RPS LAUNCH!**

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The website can provide schools with a platform to share success stories and find new ways of addressing the parking problems. Parents and "school runners" alike, can also be directed to the website where they can get ideas on how they can travel to school more actively and how they can get involved with encouraging other drivers to park considerably and safely around their child's school.

We have lots of free resources to help your school, whether you are a Primary or Secondary school; Sign up and get involved. You can also contact me directly to let me know what resources you would like to receive. We have weatherproof banners for your fencing and railings; we have Hoodies for the Squad members! We can even provide the reading materials to help to educate those drivers about the importance of safe and responsible parking! Sign up now!

**Active Travel Challenge****- Coming Soon!**

With National Walking Month happening throughout May, this year I have decided to start up the active travel challenge – OperationMotion.

We have 10 spaces available for our primary schools across Kent to sign up for our Active travel challenge. All children participating in the challenge will receive a Goodie Bag and the top 3 most active schools will win prizes!!

The spaces will be allocated on a first come/first serve basis. I am just finalising some last details and then more information about this challenge and how to sign up, will be coming to your inboxes soon!

**Capital Grant Funding 2017-18**

Don't forget that now is the perfect time to revamp your School Travel Plans and ensure your annual reviews are up to date. We hope that we will be in a position to start welcoming applications for the Capital Grant Funding for 2017-18 in April. Keep your eyes peeled!

www.responsibleparking.co.uk

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