

21 October 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

At the end of this half term, we approach the time when the clocks go back, and evenings get darker. The safety of your child is obviously very important, and I am writing to ask you to speak to your son/daughter about basic road safety and consider the clothing worn by your child when they are walking or cycling on dark mornings/nights. It is a stark reality that 76% of pedestrian fatalities occur in dark conditions.

At night, the distance at which a pedestrian can be seen by a car driver differs greatly depending on clothing colour and reflective materials. A pedestrian can be seen at approximately 26m in dark clothing, increasing to approximately 38m in light clothing and 57m or more if reflective materials are worn. I would ask for your support in ensuring that your child 'does the bright thing' and wears bright or reflective clothing in order to be visible when walking or cycling in the dark.

In addition, if your child is cycling, please ensure that they have the correct lights and reflectors in according with the law. Any cycle which is used between sunset and sunrise must be fitted with the following:

- white front light
- red rear light
- red rear reflector
- amber/yellow pedal reflectors – front and rear on each pedal.

The lamps may be steady or flashing, or a mixture, for example steady at the front and flashing at the rear. A steady light is recommended at the front when the cycle is used in areas without good street lighting.

It is also worth children carrying a torch in the dark as street lighting can be poor in some areas.

Finally, please remind pupils to stay off their mobile phone when they are walking in order that they can remain alert to their surroundings.

During the past 18 months of the covid pandemic both adults and children have been out and about less, and it seems timely as the nights draw in to remind you to consider the safety of your child.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Gauntlett
Assistant Headteacher – KS3 Pastoral