



Progress in  
partnership  
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28<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Santa Challenge**  
**Cycle, Scoot or Stride to Santa in Lapland**  
Monday 2nd December to Friday 13th December

Dear Parents/Guardians

Your child's school is joining the SANTA CHALLENGE, a virtual Christmas trip to Lapland, where we count up their active travel trips during the two weeks of the competition.

**So, what is that?**

This virtual race is where children and parents walk, scoot or cycle to school. Each time a child or parent travels actively, they will be credited with one mile. These miles will be used to map the school's journey to Lapland. We will be adding up all of the miles completed by the schools taking part in Bedfordshire to see whether we can reach our goal of arriving at Lapland. Your child will receive a record card from the school on which to record journeys.

**Why now?**

We want to encourage as many children as possible to travel actively to school. As we get nearer to Christmas we thought it would be great opportunity to keep everyone walking, biking and scooting. While the weather is getting colder and the days shorter, we believe there are still opportunities to be bright and stay safe on foot or on two wheels. Being active can warm us up and cheer us up.

We understand this is not always an option for those travelling long distances. We want to open the competition up as much as possible, which is why we include Park and Stride or Park and Scoot as an option. Alternatively, remind your child to mark up walking, scooting and cycling trips you make outside of school, as these can count too.

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A challenge has been set for all pupils of the school to join in the virtual trip which gives everyone a focus of arriving in Lapland before Christmas. The virtual journey from Bedfordshire is 2,050 miles. The more people who join in, the quicker we will arrive at Lapland. The main prize, which will be drawn from returned record cards, is a brand new lightweight Frog bike.

We look forward to seeing how far the school can cycle, scoot and walk during the two weeks of the competition.

Good Luck!


Yours Sincerely

Derek Smulders, Schools Officer (Bedford Borough) [derek.smulders@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:derek.smulders@bedford.gov.uk)

Richard Noon, Schools Officer (Luton) [richard.noon@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:richard.noon@sustrans.org.uk)

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Sustrans is working with schools in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford to promote and encourage sustainable travel to school. We would like pupils and parents to discover the benefits of walking, scooting or cycling (it can be fun, social, and healthy; it also promotes learning). Our programmes are funded by Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council.

  
We're the charity that's making it  
easier for people to walk and cycle

  
**sustrans**  
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