



**Santa Challenge**  
**Cycle, Scoot or Stride to Santa in Lapland**  
Monday 30th November to Friday 11th December

Dear Parent/Carer,

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.

**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 when wheeling or on foot. 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.

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 is a scooter set for one lucky participating school, which they will be able to use as part of PE for the benefit of both the school and pupils.

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/Marianne Santis-Spilling, Schools Officers (Bedford Borough)  
[derek.smulders@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:derek.smulders@bedford.gov.uk) [marianne.santis-spilling@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:marianne.santis-spilling@sustrans.org.uk)  
Siobhan McSwiggan, Schools Officer (Luton) [siobhan.mcswiggan@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:siobhan.mcswiggan@sustrans.org.uk)  
Alister Barclay, Schools Officer (Central Bedfordshire) [alister.barclay@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:alister.barclay@sustrans.org.uk)

Sustrans is working with schools in Luton, 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 Luton Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council.