**Safer Routes to School – Information for Parents and Carers**

**Pedestrian Safety**

Your child needs to know how to stay safe when out and about, and today your child took part in a road safety session about pedestrian safety.

Child Pedestrian training teaches children how to identify and use crossing facilities such as zebra, pelican, puffin and toucan crossings (traffic light crossings) as well as using features such as pedestrian refuges or traffic islands, subways and footbridges.

Teaching your child to walk safely to and from school will stand them in good stead for the rest of their life. Children learn about:

* Using safer crossing facilities to cross roads;
* Wearing bright and reflective clothing; Be Safe Be Seen;
* The dangers of crossing while distracted with things like MP3 players and mobile phones.

They also learnt about the Green Cross Code and how they can cross roads that do not have any crossing facilities by using a simple code.

**The Green Cross Code says:**

* First find a safe place to cross then stop;
* Stand on the pavement near the kerb;
* Look all around for traffic;
* If traffic is coming, let it pass and look all around again;
* When there is no traffic, walk across the road in a straight line;
* Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross.

All of us are pedestrians at some point and there are some very good reasons for walking. These include:

* Increased fitness and improved health;
* Helps concentration at school;
* Builds road safety awareness and skills;
* Provides opportunities for socialising;
* Creates independence and confidence;
* Saves fuel costs;
* Reduces congestion in and around schools;
* Is good for environment.

**For further information about child pedestrian training or any other road safety matter please contact us as** **road.safety@newcastle.gov.uk**

**or on 0191 2115961.**