

Education case studies

Carbometer assembly at Westwood School

SRTS presented two assemblies at Westwood Junior School in March, using the special purpose built SRTS Carbo-Meter exhibit. This measures how many calories are burnt during 90 seconds walking on a treadmill compared to how few are burnt during a 90 second car journey. Pupil volunteers did a fantastic job demonstrating the benefits of an active journey as the Carbo-Meter showed how walking used up far more energy. The Carbo-Meter doesn't measure the enjoyment factor, but all the children felt they would enjoy a walk to school more than being cooped up in the car.

One World science day at Cromwell Park Primary School

Pupils at Cromwell Park Primary School in Huntingdon learnt how they could help the environment and themselves at a special One World science day event organised by their Project Officer. Sessions enjoyed during the day included Ecosnakes and ladders, which gets a serious message across in a fun way. The day was concluded with a short SRTS commissioned film called 'The Only One'. The film looks at the environmental challenges we all face and suggests ways we can help our environment by making small changes in the way we live our daily lives.

National Science week

Hundreds of pupils at SRTS project schools found out how to save the planet in just 45 minutes as part of National Science and Engineering Week. The sessions run by the Inspirational Science Theatre Company (as featured on Teachers TV and national television) helped teach children how to combat climate change.

Other events organised by the SRTS team for National Science and Engineering Week have included the popular show Carless Talk. Children and adults discovered how everyone can help reduce the impact of climate change by making small changes to our lifestyles.

Safety lesson at St John's School

Pupils at St John's Primary School, Huntingdon had a fun filled lesson that they asked for as part of their Safer Routes to School (SRTS) project. The pupils each got a chance to drop raw eggs first without, and then with, a miniature polystyrene helmet to understand how a cycle helmet protects their head.

Pupils also spotted faults on a very dodgy bike and estimated, then measured, the speed of cars going past their school to practise being able to guess how fast a car is travelling – an important skill in crossing a road safely.

Lastly they watched a 'you've been framed' style video with important do's and don'ts for how to cross the road safely and which included some scary real-life near misses with motorists and pedestrians. The lesson finished with a road safety quiz.

Feedback from teachers and children alike showed the lesson had not only been a great success but the children had also learnt some vital information along the way.

As a result of the SRTS project the school has also benefited from a fantastic new cycle shelter and a scooter rack. They also have signs to deter parents from parking close to the school and further highway measures are planned. The school have also benefited from a visit from the Millennium Maths Project, who ran fun and interactive maths workshops with the younger years groups in 2008 as part of Walk to School Week.