

Dear Parent/Carer,

This year our school is participating in the **Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge** being run in partnership by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Eco-Schools and Translink.

Children in St Maria Goretti NS will be asked to take part in this challenge over a 2 week period starting on *Week beginning Monday 7 May until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May.*

We will look at what transport pupils currently use to get to and from school and ask you and them to try and make sustainable improvements during this period and beyond. For example: taking the bus, train, walking or cycling – **even once a week can make a big difference!** You could also consider arranging car sharing with another parent if possible.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our school to work towards becoming more environmentally sustainable by reducing carbon emissions caused by traffic and is a positive step towards reducing car congestion around the school. It is also a healthy and sociable option for our pupils. We will also be using the challenge as a means to achieving the prestigious **Eco-Schools Green Flag award for the second time next year.**

Joining the Travel Challenge is free for the school and there will be a special awards ceremony in Belfast Central Station during Bus + Train Week in June 2018 to present **prizes to the top participants** from across Northern Ireland.

There are some great prizes based on sustainable transport to be won for the school and for an individual pupil and their family.

**We hope you will support our Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge!**

For further information on the Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge please speak to *Miss Heaney*, our Eco-Schools Co-ordinator. You can also find more information on the Translink Eco-Schools webpage at -[www.translink.co.uk/ecoschools](http://www.translink.co.uk/ecoschools).

Yours Sincerely

*Mrs Murray and Miss Heaney*