

A Valuable Visit From DHL – Learning About Road Safety

We were delighted to welcome representatives from DHL to school for an engaging and highly practical session on **road safety**. Their visit provided the children with a deeper understanding of how to stay safe when walking near roads, crossing safely, and interacting responsibly around large vehicles. The session was full of real-life examples, interactive demonstrations and memorable messages that will help keep our pupils safe in the wider world.

Understanding Large Vehicles: What Makes Lorries Different?

The DHL team brought a delivery lorry for the children to explore, giving them a rare chance to see a large vehicle up close. This helped pupils understand why lorries behave differently on the road compared to cars and bicycles.

Children learned about:

- vehicle size and weight
- how these affect turning, parking and manoeuvring
- why drivers of large vehicles need extra space
- how lorries require wider turning circles

This real-world experience helped children appreciate why they must be extra careful around large vehicles.

Stopping Distances – Why Lorries Need More Time

One of the most important lessons was about stopping distances. The DHL team explained that:

- lorries are extremely heavy
- heavy vehicles take much longer to slow down
- even when a driver reacts quickly, a lorry cannot stop instantly

Children were shown examples such as:

- how long a lorry needs to stop when travelling at different speeds
- why stepping into the road suddenly can be dangerous
- how stopping distances increase in rain or poor visibility

The children were surprised to learn that a fully loaded lorry may need the length of a football pitch to come to a complete stop. This helped them understand why it is vital to stop, look, listen and think before crossing.

Blind Spots – What the Driver Can and Cannot See

Using the lorry parked on the playground, the DHL instructors demonstrated blind spots by positioning children around the vehicle and asking who the driver could see in the mirrors.

Children learned that:

- large vehicles have several blind spots
- drivers cannot always see what is directly beside or behind them
- children are especially hard to spot because of their height
- staying well back from a lorry is the safest place to be

This visual demonstration had a powerful impact, helping pupils understand why they must avoid standing close to corners or sides of big vehicles.

Road Safety Skills for Life

The session also reinforced essential road-safety rules, including:

- crossing at safe places
- waiting until vehicles fully stop
- making eye contact with drivers when possible
- never running into the road
- wearing bright clothing or reflective elements near traffic
- staying alert near driveways, car parks and busy roads

The children practised safe positioning on pavements and discussed the safest ways to walk as part of a group.

Interactive Learning and Fun

The DHL team made the session lively and memorable. Activities included:

- sitting inside the lorry's cab to see what the driver sees
- participating in discussions and demonstrations
- taking part in practical spotting challenges
- exploring safety equipment used by drivers

Children were enthusiastic, engaged and keen to ask questions about how deliveries are made, how drivers stay safe, and how roads work.

A Key Safety Message to Remember

DHL shared a simple, memorable safety messages for children: **“Be seen, be safe.”** encouraging children to stay visible near roads.

A Meaningful Community Partnership

The visit supported several areas of our curriculum, including:

- PSHE – keeping safe; responsible behaviour
- Science – forces, motion, and real-world applications
- Geography – understanding human and transport environments
- Citizenship – recognising key community roles
- Personal development – confidence, decision-making, awareness

It also helped build children's **cultural capital** by giving them first-hand experience of how goods move around the country and how professional drivers keep people safe.

A Visit That Will Make a Difference

We are extremely grateful to DHL for delivering such a clear, practical and engaging road-safety session. The learning was meaningful, memorable, and directly linked to keeping our children safe in everyday life.

A brilliant example of community partnerships supporting education - and an experience the children will remember every time they walk near a busy road.

