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**School reviews for Avanti Cycling.**

**Christ The King, Reading.**

Rachel Tetchner assistant headteacher

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| On Tue, 10 Mar 2020 at 18:39, Resource Manager @ Christ The King <[ResourceManager@christtheking.reading.sch.uk](mailto:ResourceManager@christtheking.reading.sch.uk)> wrote:  I am writing to support Avanti Cycling as Bikeability provider of the year  I took over as PE coordinator at Christ the King 3 years ago, two years ago I noticed Geoffrey Field Junior School children out on bikes. I then received an email from Avanti, talking about opportunities for our pupils to have free Bikeability sessions. When I spoke to pupils in year 5 and 6 they were very excited, however at the time I felt parents were a little worried.  In our first year we did not have huge uptake, but once other children saw the courses, the interest grew.  Last year we had:  7 children (1 child with SEN, in our ASD resource) take part in the learn to ride sessions, these were after school. All children passed. 3 of these children went on to complete the level 1/2 course. For the after-school sessions, Avanti Cycling provided extra staff to support the children so they could be successful in learning to ride a bike.  18 further children took part in the level 1/2 and completed it successfully.  We are hoping that all these children above will complete their level 3 course this year.  This meant that just under half our year 5 cohort had passed level 1/2.   We also had 14 Year 6 children take the advanced Level3 course for the first time this had been run in the school.  Several of them were complete beginners in year5 so it was great to see them move on through all the levels with support from Avanti!  Learning to ride a bike safely is so important, many of our children leave in year 6 and go to schools where they have to either ride a bike or take a bus.  We had one of our past pupils, hit on the road by a car 2 years ago and this brought to the front of our minds the importance of riding safely.  The Avanti instructors are fantastic with the children, we have a high percentage of SEN children in our school, some of the courses have had a school member of staff go with them, but the majority of the time Avanti are able to manage the behaviour of the children successfully without needing any extra support, there have been occasions where they have brought in extra instructors to ensure the groups are successful and that the children are passing the courses.  It is great that Avanti are able to offer hire of a bike, at a very small cost, helmet hire is free, as this means the opportunity for more children is available even though they don’t own a bike. Also the Avanti instructors check all the bikes the children bring in themselves and have been able to make some repairs which were needed, to ensure the bikes were safe for the children to ride on.  As always in schools, timetabling events such as Bikeability can be difficult, however, they are so flexible with us, as we have not completely got the dates/structure of the courses in our heads, Avanti Cycling have been able to work with us to make sure we can get as many children as possible through the courses, but at the same time ensure that the dates work around us.  It has been a pleasure working with Avanti Cycling and all their staff and we look forward to continuing our partnership with them, developing it further so that we have as many as possible children complete the level 1&2 and move onto achieving the level 3 Bikeability award.  Kind regards  Rachel Tetchner |



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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | to Greg | |   Dear Greg,  Thank you for your help and support around Bikeability cycle training again this year, it is greatly appreciated.  As a parent of The Heights Primary I have seen first hand the benefits Bikeability training has had on our children so far, and, as part of The Heights travel plan action group I have seen the benefits cycle training has brought to not only our school but also the neighbourhood in which we live.  Your enthusiasm to get everyone cycling is contagious and the support you have provided around introducing Bikeability, and other cycling initiatives has been gratefully received.  To date, The Heights Primary have run Bikeability Levels 1 & 2 courses in years 4 & 5, and a Fun Ride for year 4, which put into practice everything they had learnt in level 1.  When running these courses we were really impressed with Avanti's vision to get children and parents cycling and are fully on board with this. We were also really appreciative that when the Local Authority funding did not support bespoke training,  Avanti Cycling were able to help out by part subsidising the sessions.  Because of the great success of this training we look to run even more this year, including:  1. Year 4s  Level 1 introduction course, including the fun ride to put into practice what the children have learnt in Level 1  2. Year 5s, two school days of Level 2  3. Year 6s, (this year is our first year 6), we will run 2 full days of Level 3.  4. We are also trialling a Parents / Child day, in order to show parents what the children have learnt and encourage them to ride with their children  All of this is really exciting and we cant wait to get started!  We thank you and look forward to a long partnership with Avanti Cycling.  Kind Regards  Dawn Rosser  Parent and Travel Plan Action Group membe |