



OLDFIELD SCHOOL

21st August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on developments with regards to the provision of bus transport to the school in September. You will be aware that First Bus has suspended the 37 service earlier in the year and that this will not be reinstated in September. In addition, the additional 19 service at the end of the school day will not be running from September onwards. There will be a 19 service but this is timetabled to arrive at the school at 1447 and 1547, this is only 2 minutes after the end of the school day. In addition, this service will have social distancing measures in place; therefore, it would only have the capacity to carry a limited number of students. We first became aware of these developments towards the end of July and over the last two weeks the school has been investigating alternative transport arrangements for September for students who use these bus services.

We have contacted both First Bus and Eurocoaches with a proposal to run a dedicated school service which follows the route of the 19 from Hanham and 37 from Kingswood. Having reviewed the options available, we have decided that the First Bus proposal will best meet the needs of parents and students. The timetables for these services are summarised below:

	OS1	OS2	OS3	OS4	OS5
Hanham, The Maypole	07:42		08:50		
Kingswood, Kings Chase		07:42		08:50	
Cadbury Heath		07:52		09:00	
Bristol Bus Station					
Keynsham, Church					
Bitton, White Hart	08:00	08:00	09:10	09:10	09:10
Oldfield School	08:10	08:10	09:20	09:20	09:20
	OS1	OS2	OS3	OS4	OS5
Oldfield School	14:55	14:55	16:05	16:05	16:05
Bitton, White Hart	15:05	15:05	16:15	16:15	16:15
Cadbury Heath		15:15		16:25	
Keynsham, Church					
Bristol Bus Station					
Hanham, The Maypole	15:25		16:35		
Kingswood, Kings Chase		15:25		16:35	

The OS5 service to and from Bitton is required for the later school start and finish times as the numbers of students joining the OS3 and OS4 service before Bitton are such that an additional bus is needed. These buses will stop at all bus stops that were serviced by the 19 and 37 buses last year. It is not possible to extend the routes beyond Hanham and Kingswood as the same bus will be used for the OS1 and OS2 service and the OS3 and OS4 service in order to ensure that the ticket costs are not prohibitive (the five services being provided will only require three buses). Students will be able to use the First Bus ticket for their dedicated service on any other First Bus therefore they could use this ticket

for connecting services. This ticket can also be used for later bus services after the end of the school day if required by sixth formers who may have a period 7 lesson, although only the 19 service will be running via Kelston Road. The ability for students to use the termly ticket for other services was a significant factor in going with the First Bus proposal.

Tickets will be sold on a termly basis and will be purchased directly from First Bus. However, given the need to ensure that places on these dedicated services are allocated to the correct year groups for the start of the day and to ensure that all students have access to a seat on the buses, the school has agreed to take responsibility for the allocation of places. This will mean that we can manage this in a way that minimises mixing between different year groups as well as ensuring that there is capacity to carry all students who need to use these buses to get to school for their start time. Therefore, the school will be issuing the voucher codes that parents will then use to purchase a ticket. We will be contacting parents shortly to share this information and to explain the procedure for requesting a seat on a specific service. Please be aware that those student in Years 10 to 13 who travel from Bitton or closer to the school will be allocated the OS5 service and will not be able to use the other dedicated services. Student will be expected to wear a face covering when using any of these services but social distancing will not be in place as per the government guidelines on dedicated school bus services. I am aware there will be some students who will not easily be able to access these dedicated services, I am afraid that if this is the case parents will need to make other arrangements for transport to school.

First Bus have provided us with the pricing for termly tickets (this varies according to the length of the term) and this is summarised below:

Term 1	£110	Term 4	£84
Term 2	£101	Term 5	£86
Term 3	£80	Term 6	£97

These tickets will allow for unlimited travel on all First and Metrobus services in the West of England Zone in addition to the dedicated school service. It will not be possible to purchase daily, weekly or monthly tickets or to be refunded if the service is not used by your child for a period of time.

The 39 and 18 service will be running as normal (with reduced capacity) so that students who use these services to travel to school can continue to do so. The school will continue to facilitate the purchase of weekly and monthly tickets for students travelling on these routes.

I appreciate that this proposal may not meet the needs of all of our students that were using these services last year; however, we feel that this is a solution that offers the best solution for parents and students. It will mean that the uncertainty over access to overcrowded buses which was such an issue last year will be resolved as your child will have an allocated place on a bus to and from school.

Yours faithfully,



Steven Mackay
Headteacher