17th July 2019

**School Transport Update July 2019**

Dear parents/carers

As you may be aware the school has been exploring ways to retain the school bus service whilst reducing the financial impact. The options were outlined in my previous letter dated 19th June. Governors have now given their approval for the amendments and we are pleased to announce that there will be no increase in the costs of tickets and passes. We are mindful of the cost to families and we have made savings in other ways.

In September (for all routes except Warrington) we will be issuing new tickets that will be hole punched on every journey by a member of school staff. Students will buy a ticket which will last for ten journeys and they will need to ensure that it is not lost. In exceptional circumstances students will still be able to buy a single ticket. Bus passes will also have the students photograph printed on. These changes will ensure that the correct fare is always paid.

After consultation with parents and Governors it has been decided that there will no longer be a bus service to Knutsford. The vast majority of students travel by train as it quicker and less expensive. Students travelling from Moulton, Davenham and Kingsmead will now travel on one of the other bus services provided.

There will be five bus routes from September.

1. Purple Route – Winsford/Over (Arriva) – Tickets purchased from school
2. Yellow Route – Winsford/Wharton/Moulton/Davenham (Arriva) – Tickets purchased from school
3. Green Route – Helsby/Frodsham (Arrowebrook) – Tickets purchased from school
4. Blue Route – Middlewich/Rudheath (Stanways) – Tickets purchased from school
5. Red Route – Warrington/Wincham/Kingsmead (Walkers) – Pay the driver directly

The Winsford routes have been extensively changed and a letter to all students travelling on these buses will be sent separately. All areas of Winsford are covered but students may need to walk a little further to their bus stop. The timings of the routes have also changed. Students have been allocated a route by their postcode to ensure that there is enough space for all to travel. The colour of the student’s ticket and pass will reflect the route that they can travel on. A new timetable will be placed on the school website later this week. Any questions regarding the allocation of routes should be sent to Mrs Crosthwaite at d.crosthwaite@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

The Yellow Winsford route will collect students from Moulton and Davenham. Students from Moulton will only be collected from Jack Lane Corner.

Kingsmead students will still travel with Walkers coaches but will travel with students travelling from Warrington and Wincham. Please ensure you check the attached timetable carefully for all changes.

The Middlewich service will now begin in Sandbach and will no longer travel to Holmes Chapel.

Tickets and passes will be available to purchase via Parent Pay from 19th July. Students will be able to travel without a pass and ticket on the 4th September and collect new passes and tickets on their arrival to school.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Smith

Assistant Headteacher