**ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BUS UPDATE**

**August 2020**

Further to the completion of the online school transport survey we can now confirm the details regarding the dedicated school bus provision operating during the 2020-21 academic year which includes important information about new protocols being introduced from September to minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus and make the journey as safe as possible.

The government guidance regarding dedicated transport to schools states;

* the overall risk to children and young people of serious illness as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low
* children and young people do not mix with the general public on these journeys. This helps limit the number of other people with whom they come into contact.
* home to school transport often carries the same group of children and young people on a regular basis
* the predictability of home to school transport allows for planning so that protective measures can be put in place
* it is not required to uniformly apply the social distancing guidelines however, distancing should still be put in place within vehicles wherever it is possible, between individuals or ‘bubbles’.

As a result, the school bus service will continue to run as normal but the following protective measures will be introduced,

* Students should not board the bus if they are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms. Drivers and school staff will be unable to permit travel if pupils are displaying symptoms. Parents/ Carers will need to collect their child from school if they display symptoms during the course of the school day or when boarding the bus at the end of the school day.
* Students should clean their hands at home prior to boarding the bus and/or with their own personal sanitiser or hand sanitiser if provided on the bus.
* The driver will advise students when they can board and students must wait safely at the stop and not attempt to board until permitted to do so.
* Students will be expected to sit in year groups where possible, please see attached seating plan as a guide. Students must follow instructions from the driver about where to sit and must use one seat only, please do not place bags on other seats.
* Students must wear a face mask/covering prior to boarding the bus and throughout the journey. A face covering is a covering of any type which covers your nose and mouth. Reusable or single-use face coverings are available for parents and carers to buy. A scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering may also be used but these must securely fit round the side of the face. Face-coverings should be plain with no detail, decoration or logos. They must only be removed once students have disembarked the bus upon arrival at school as instructed by staff. There will be a designated face-covering removal and sanitising zone, re-usable face-coverings must be placed in a plastic bag inside the student’s usual school bag. On the return journey home, face coverings should only be removed once the student has disembarked at their stop ensuring other people are at least 1m away.
* Our travel behaviour expectations and guidelines are being updated and will be sent out separately to incorporate these requirements. Staff will be alerted to any students not following these guidelines.
* Bus passes will continue to be used by students however short term individual travel cards will not be issued. These journeys will be recorded and logged by staff when students are disembarking/boarding the bus at school.
* Ventilation will be maximised on the vehicle by opening windows and ceiling vents.
* All vehicles are subject to enhanced cleaning regimes and the use of different drivers will be limited where possible.

**Payment arrangements**

There are two online payment options via Parentpay for using the school bus; an annual bus pass (£3.60 per return journey) or an individual travel card (£2.00 per single journey). Please see the breakdown of charges below for the annual bus pass together with a copy of the relevant bus timetable that your child has been assigned to.

**Annual bus pass**: Payments for passes can be made in instalments on a reducing balance to allow the cost to be spread over the year, however, it is requested that the half term cost must have been paid for in full by the required dates before the second half term commences otherwise this may impact a student’s eligibility to continue travelling as access to the school managed bus service may be withdrawn. Students choosing this option will be issued with a colour coded bus pass depending on their bus route, however if the personalised bus pass is mislaid, then there is a charge of £5 via Parentpay for a replacement bus pass. All students travelling to school under this arrangement must display their bus pass to a member of staff at school when boarding/disembarking the bus each journey.

**Individual travel card**: A minimum of £20 to cover 10 individual journeys, cards must be purchased in **advance** of travel. Actual cards will not be issued and journeys will be recorded via a register taken on arrival/departure to school until all 10 journeys have been taken, after which an additional travel card will need to be purchased if required.

**We will assign you onto the school bus payment item based on your requirements for 2019-20, however if you would prefer to change to a different payment form please email** **c.jones@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk** **so this can be amended. Bus passes will be issued in the first couple of weeks of term with any overpayments from last year transferred to the new year. Likewise any tickets purchased in March, but not collected, will be taken into consideration. Please check the school website for timing information relating to the bus route assigned to.**

Please note, we will not be charging Y7 and Y12 students for travel on Thursday 3rd September, payment for all students will start from Friday 4th September.

Please do not hesitate to contact school at Admin@.st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk if you have any general queries.

Yours sincerely



**Mr R Woods**

**Headteacher**

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| **Bus Travel 2020 – 2021** |  |
| **Pass Price** | **(£3.60 return for all other stops)** |  |  |  |  |
|  **Term** | **Dates** | **No of days** |  **Total cost**  | **Payment required by** |  |
| Autumn  | 04.09.20 - 23.10.20 | 36 |  £ 129.60  | 19.10.20 |  |
|   | 02.11.20 - 17.12.20 | 33 |  £ 118.80  | 14.12.20 |  |
| Spring  | 05.01.21 - 12.02.21 | 29 |  £ 104.40  | 08.02.21 |  |
|   | 22.02.21 - 01.04.21 | 29 |  £ 104.40  | 29.03.21 |  |
| Summer  | 19.04.21 - 28.05.21 | 29 |  £104.40  | 24.05.21 |  |
|   | 07.06.21 - 21.07.21 | 33 |  £ 118.80  | 14.07.21 |  |
| **TOTAL** |  | **189** |  **£ 680.40**  |  |  |
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| **Bus Travel 2020 - 2021** |
| **Pass Price**  | **Rudheath / Northwich / Weaverham** |  |  **£3.00 return**  | **Payment** |
|   | Dates | No days |  Total cost  | required by |
| Autumn Term  | 04.09.20 - 23.10.20 | 36 |  £ 108.00  | 19.10.20 |
|   | 02.11.20 - 17.12.20 | 33 |  £ 99.00  | 14.12.20 |
| Spring Term | 05.01.21 - 12.02.21 | 29 |  £ 87.00  | 08.02.21 |
|   | 22.02.21 - 01.04.21 | 29 |  £ 87.00  | 29.03.21 |
| Summer Term | 19.04.21 – 28.05.21 | 29 |  £ 87.00  | 24.05.21 |
|   | 07.06.21 - 21.07.21 | 33 |  £ 99.00  | 14.07.21 |
| TOTAL |  | **189** |  **£ 567.00** |  |