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Bohunt Horsham Headteacher: Ms G Ayling BA (Hons)

Tuesday 9 November 2021

Dear Families

Re: Transport Plan for January 2022 – April 2022

First I would like to thank you all for your patience in waiting for communication about the plans for transporting students to and from the new school site in January whilst we await construction of the bridge. I am finally in a position to start to share the plans we have in place and this letter is the start of that communication. There is a huge amount of information to digest but you will of course have opportunities to ask questions at the upcoming information evening.

When it was finally confirmed that Legal and General were not going to be able to complete the bridge across the A264 in time for our move we immediately began working with Wates, the Department for Education and West Sussex transport to devise a plan that would be safe, reliable and effective and that also ensured that we could still move this Christmas. After several iterations of the plan, none of which I felt was workable for either our families or the local community, I am really happy to share the plan we now have funding for with you and I strongly believe it is the one that best serves us and our wider community in Horsham.

The plan:

- We will run five, fully funded (free to families) buses every morning and every afternoon.
- There will be two bus routes that will serve the north east of Horsham, two that will serve the north west of Horsham and one serving the south.
- These bus routes will pick students up from a range of existing bus stops and will be timed to meet routes that come in from outside of Horsham.
- Students will get a bus pass for their allocated route.
- The buses will bring students to school before 8.20 and will pick them up at 3.30 after school.

Some facts:

- The bridge is the responsibility of Legal and General who are developing the wider area around the school. It was expected in December 2021 and is now expected in April 2022 due to issues with steel procurement. Legal and General have a website for this development, including contact information: <https://www.landnorthhofhorsham.co.uk/>
- In our travel survey we identified that 90 of our 445 students intended to travel to school by car in January and so safe passage across the road for 355 students who planned to walk, cycle or use public transport routes (all of which stop on the south side of the A264) was needed.
- The majority of these 355 students live in North Horsham but there are large pockets who travel in from south Horsham or from areas outside Horsham such as Southwater, Broadbridge Heath, Crawley, Kilnwood Vale etc.

Safety:

- Our biggest priority is students' safety; **under no circumstances** can any student take the risk of crossing the A264 on foot; their safety cannot be compromised. We are, therefore, putting together a plan for lateness.
- It is proposed that students who are late to their bus stop (and miss their bus) will need to call the school either on the normal phone number, or an allocated free phone number, or can choose to text a mobile number to be collected by a member of school staff.
- All students will be provided with a 'late contact card'.
- This isn't a service a school would usually offer but it is something we will invest in to ensure students do not attempt to cross the road.
- This late offer will be very costly to the school and so we will ask for your support in ensuring that students are punctual to their bus stops each morning.
- Students will not be able to leave school on foot at the end of the day; they will need to be collected from the car park or get on their allocated bus.
- We are currently looking at options for after school clubs and will communicate that plan to you later in the term.

Logistics and next steps:

- We have the expected routes, timing and bus stops and we have funding agreed. We are in talks with several bus companies who would like to be our suppliers. Once we have the bus company (or companies) in contract we will share these routes with you.
- We will now use your travel survey data, your postcode and the bus routes we have devised to allocate the 355 students to each of the five bus routes and to a specific stop on that route.
- When your route and stop are allocated there will be very little movement from there as we will be contractually bound to the bus companies but we are selecting stops that are as close to your houses as possible.
- We will be writing to the families of the 90 students we know from the survey who will drive to school to confirm this plan in writing.
- Once this is all complete, we will write to the remaining 355 families with your specific route, stop and timings.

I know that with a plan this complex there are likely to be many families with specific circumstances, such as shared parenting arrangements over different addresses and concerns or questions about the timings and routes. The letter with your specific plan will also include an option to get in touch and ask questions. In addition, we are holding a virtual information evening about the move, the joining details for which are below.

Moving Schools - Families Information Evening (Thursday 18 November 6-7pm):

This is the last half term in our temporary school which already holds so many memories for us all. If you have questions or concerns or would simply like more information about the move to the new school site, then please sign up to attend our virtual information evening on Thursday 18 November using the link below (it will also be recorded): https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fCwU-pRtSbyDFGkf_Q7WWQ

This event will include the following information for Bohunt Horsham families:

- The move to the new site
- Transport (including pick up and drop off)
- Term dates
- Clubs
- Catering
- PE
- Maps and timetables
- Student induction
- Parent and carer tours

With best wishes

Ms Ayling

Key dates:

- Thursday 18 November – webinar for all families with information about the move to the new school site (registration link above)
- Tuesday 30 November - KS4 information evening (Year 9)
- Friday 17 December - end of term, school closes at 1.40pm
- Monday 3rd January 2022 - Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 4 January 2022 - INSET Day, school closed to students
- Wednesday 5 January - Friday 7 January 2022 - statutory staff induction in new building, school closed to students, remote learning provided
- Monday 10 January - all students start on the new school site, normal school day times, more details to follow later in the term.
- Tuesday 11 January onwards – families' tours of the new school site, booking opens online soon.