

# Joint Bus Service

Dear Parents,

Further to the recent tender of the Joint Bus Service operation over the next 3 years and following negotiations with coach operators, we would like to bring you up to date with developments to the service that will come into place from **September 2011**.

We will be using 3 coach operators: **Weavaway, Blunsdons, and Whites**. Weavaway will run 14 of our 18 morning routes and will be setting up a new base in the Abingdon area to manage this contract. Blunsdon Coaches from Witney and Whites Coaches from Culham will be joining us, each operating 2 routes. You will be pleased to know that we have been able to increase our coverage to include new stops in Caversham, Clanfield, Compton, Emmer Green, Gosford, Islip, Lower Shiplake, Thatcham and at Reading Station, all of which will be in place from September.

Unfortunately the price of fuel has had a major impact on the cost of running the service and accordingly fares will have to rise across the network. We will also be adjusting the level of sibling discount from 25% to 15% for the 2<sup>nd</sup> child; however the discount of 75% will remain in place for a 3<sup>rd</sup> child. Revised fares by individual route will be available on the JBS web page (follow the link to JBS from your respective school's homepage) no later than **15 April 2011**. We have tried to construct our contract with the coach operators in such a way that any future increases over the lifetime of this contract (i.e. the next three years) will be substantially lower; however, we cannot predict the future escalation in fuel prices to provide any guarantees.

The majority of the vehicles used on our network will now be less than 5 years old and none will be older than 10 years. We trust that pupils will therefore enjoy a more pleasant experience in getting to and from school.

Yours sincerely,

**Joint Bus Service**

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