

29th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you and your family are keeping safe in these unprecedented times.

This week's letter will be focused on **Transport** to and from school. No matter how students are travelling to and from school, it is essential that they do this safely and sensibly. The school day begins at 8:45 and finishes at 15:10.

Walking

The majority of our students live in the local community and walk to school. I would advise all students to practice their walk to school before September so they are confident on the route, timings and any issues they need to consider. E.g. crossing busy roads etc

Cycling

We have a large number of students cycling to school and really need to encourage safety as an absolute priority.

We strongly recommend that:

- Students attend a course such as the Silver Cycling Award Scheme, before they commence cycling to school (A *bikeability* course is usually run during April for Year 7 students.)
- Strong "D" locks are used to secure bicycles in the school cycle sheds
- All bicycles are post coded
- Students MUST wear cycle helmets
- Students cycling to and from school during the winter months must have appropriate lights fitted to the front and rear of their bicycles
- Students should also wear high visibility clothing

School Bus

The school does not allocate bus passes. If you are planning for your child to travel to school via a school bus you will need to apply to Gloucestershire County Council. They are clear that *'most children and young people **do not** qualify for help with transport and you will have to make sure you can meet the costs of getting your child to school throughout their education.'* Details on how to apply and costs are on the website - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/school-and-college-transport/apply-for-a-new-or-lost-school-bus-pass/>

Public Transport

There is a Severn Vale School Bus stop immediately outside the school gates on School Lane. This is accessed by the number 12 bus. Buses run every 20 minutes with a schedule available on the Stagecoach website.

Car

Cars are unable to access the school site at the beginning and the end of the school day. Vehicle gates will be closed at these times for the safety of students and staff. We ask all parents who are dropping off or picking up students, to park safely away from the school gates and to always consider the impact the position of their vehicle has on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

Behaviour

Students wearing the Severn Vale uniform are ambassadors for the school and their attitude and behaviour needs to reflect this. Students will be reminded in September that their journeys to and from school are considered part of the school day, and where necessary are covered by the behaviour policy detailed on the school website.

I would like to draw your attention to the dedicated transition email address transitions@severnvaeschool.com which you can use to ask any questions you may have. All questions will be collated and we will publish answers to FAQs on the school website.

I would like to thank those parents who have already completed and returned the Year 7 Data Booklets. If you haven't yet done this, please can I gently remind you to return completed forms as soon as possible. I thank you in advance for this.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Severn Vale School and to working with you over the next five years.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Brown - Assistant Head (KS3)