**School Transport information from Central Bedfordshire Council 2/9/19**

Please be aware that all applications received before the published deadline dates have been processed and passes distributed. All late applications received before the end of term have also been processed and passes distributed to home addresses this week. This includes in year applications and students who have moved into the area over the summer.

Those applications that have been received since the start of the summer holidays have not been processed and will not be looked at before the term starts. They will be worked on shortly but transport may not be in place until October half term. Schools are advised to not issue temporary passes to any students not on pupil lists as they will not be entitled to travel.

Applications for concessionary travel have been offered and payments have been made but students are not permitted to travel until their pass has arrived. Travel arrangements are parental responsibility until that time. If a space has not been offered, please do not advise parents to speak to us about alternatives as we do not have any for them. If there is no entitlement or students are P16, transport is parental responsibility and we do not upsize buses or add stops to accommodate concessionary pupils.

There may still be offers made but due to the high level of late applications please be warned that concessions can be removed at any time.

 **Changes coming into effect shortly:**

We have consulted with the relevant Children Services teams within CBC about the issue of students travelling without passes on the AM journeys. It has been confirmed that if a student attempts to board the bus without a pass for that particular route we are well within our right to refuse travel.

Overcrowding due to students using the bus not allocated to them, or from students not entitled to travel using the service caused major problems last year and we have taken the decision if a student does not have a pass they will not be able to use the service on either AM or PM journeys.

We will be out monitoring routes and contractors and schools will be feeling our presence more regularly this academic year. The team will not be announcing their intended visits but will ensure we come into receptions to alert staff we are on the premises when we do visit a school.

Just a reminder that we have one telephone number 0300 300 8339 and one email address school.transport@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

All other numbers and email boxes have been closed down and you can no longer reach officers directly.

Kind Regards,

School Transport Team