2 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have long had challenges with the buses and bus stop interactions and behaviours. Although historically this has been a consistent issue, it has recently escalated to the point where we are compelled to act.

The bus is a tricky area as although it does fall within the schools wider purview, it is not actually within the school's jurisdiction as it is a state government run service. Further to this, we do have to fit in with the other schools around us. However, we recognise that this is an important issue as the bus rides bookend the school days and for little children, it is imperative that they are not over stimulated during these periods so that they arrive both to school and back to the home, in a calm manner.

In order to try and alleviate these problems and shorten the trip for our youngest and most sensitive children, we will be changing the buses that they travel on. Following discussions recently with Natureland and the Principal of Orama, we will make adjustments to the buses as follows:

- Class K, 1 and 2 will now travel on bus number 2.
- Class 3, 4 & 5 will change to bus number 3.
- No change to bus number 1 which will still transport Classes 6, 7, 8 & 9.

It is important to note that bus number 2 is the connector bus so any students from classes 3, 4 & 5 who have existing connections and need to connect with other valley buses or Urunga in the afternoon, will still need to catch the number 2 bus.

These changes will take effect from the afternoon of Friday 9 September 2022. We will make the first changes at the School in the afternoon on that Friday. They will then be effective and ongoing with your children on their new bus service on Monday morning 12 September onwards.

Bellingen bus departure times from the Chrysalis Bus Shelter on Park Street:

- Senior Express (bus number 1): Classes 6, 7, 8 & 9 @ 8:15am
- Junior Express (bus number 3): Classes 3, 4 & 5 @ 8.40am
- Kindy Bus (bus number 2): Classes K, 1 & 2 + 3, 4 & 5 students arriving in on connecting buses @ 8:45am



Bellingen bus arrival times at the Chrysalis Bus Shelter on Park Street:

- Senior Express (bus number 1): Classes 6, 7, 8 & 9 @ 3:15pm
- Kindy Bus (bus number 2): Classes K, 1 & 2 + 3, 4 & 5 students travelling on connecting buses @ 3:20pm
- Junior Express: Classes 3, 4 & 5 @ 3:25pm

Another area that is of concern is the Park Street bus stop in the morning where some of the behaviours can be very spirited just as the bus is arriving. Please know that we are aware of this and recognise that it is an area that needs to be addressed. The School is looking at options to provide a solution here. It is important for families to please take responsibility for their children at the bus stop and where possible monitor their behaviours as this will make a big difference to the flow of the bus stop at these times.

Should you have any concerns or questions, please contact the office.

Warmly regards,

Jeremy Street

Business Operations Manager