

July 2024



**THE
COWPLAIN
SCHOOL**

Dear Parent

Headteacher

Mr IR Gates MA NPQH

The Cowplain School Bus Pass Information: HAMBLEDON/DENMEAD BUS SERVICE

I am writing to let you know some information relating to the above bus service.

There are no changes to the timetable; the morning service will carry Cowplain students only, leaving Hambledon at 07:35, Denmead at 07:43, The Falcon at 07:48 and arriving at The Cowplain School at 07:59. Students can go to the Library or the Dining Room on arrival at school until it is time to move to their first lesson. The service will be operated by Stagecoach not First Bus, as previously.

We will be keeping the same arrangement of two services home to enable students to stay and take part in our enrichment activities and then travel home safely. This bus can also be used for our Year 11 students who have an extra 40 minutes of lessons on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays. The first bus back is at 15.07pm, the other at 16.02pm. The 15.07pm service will only take Cowplain students; the later one will pick up our students after picking up those from Oaklands School.

All buses will pick up and drop off from the road outside the main school entrance. The first service is designated to The Cowplain School and does not pick up members of the public.

Students can pay on the bus daily or you can purchase an annual Cowplain Bus Pass, a saving of over £100.00 a year compared to paying daily and negating the need to find cash every day.

The standing order scheme will still be in place, which allows you to spread the payments over ten months. Fares for the service for the school year 2024/25 have been agreed below:

Onboard fare - Single £2.30

Onboard fare - Return £3.50

Year 7-10 Annual Bus Pass £566.00 (valid term time only) payments 10 x £56.60

Year 11 Bus Pass £509.00 (valid term time only up to 27/06/2025) payments 10 x £50.90

Hambledon - Denmead - The Cowplain School		
Via Sunnymead Drive and Wecock Farm		
Pick Up Point		
Hambledon Opposite The Gardens	07:35	
Denmead Green	07:43	
The Falcon	07:48	
The Cowplain School	07:59	
Collection Point		
The Cowplain School	15:07	16:02
The Falcon	15:18	16:13
Denmead Green	15:23	16:18
Hambledon Opposite The Gardens	15:31	16:24

All timings could be subject to change

The Cowplain School, Hart Plain Avenue, Cowplain, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 8RY

Telephone: 023 9261 2020 • Email: office@cowplainschool.co.uk

www.cowplainschool.co.uk

Although we continue to subsidise this service, we have needed to increase the fares slightly in line with the higher charges passed on by the bus company. Hampshire County Council has also agreed to maintain free transport for those who are eligible, the criteria for which we understand to be:

- living over 3 miles away from the school by the shortest walking route, or
- living 2 miles away if your child meets low-income criteria.

All applications for free transport should be made directly to HCC using the link below. Please also tick the appropriate box on the Bus Pass Order Form and return it to the school so we can monitor your application. **If you are currently in receipt of a free bus pass, you will only need to make a new application for 2024/25 if your circumstances have changed; for example, change of address.**

HCC link: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schooltransport/parent-carer/eligibility>

If you wish to purchase a bus pass, please complete the Bus Pass Order Form, and return to us by Friday 12th July 2024, together with a completed Standing Order form or full payment. Travel on the bus will be free on 3rd September 2024 and passes will be available for collection from the Finance Office when children arrive at school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Pidgeon
Finance Manager