**Tenterden Primary Federation’s Walking Bus**

**Information Sheet**

* **What is a walking bus?**

A walking bus is an organised group of children walking on one of our three set routes to school, Tenterden South, East or West (see maps). The bus is escorted by two adult volunteers – our Walking Bus Buddies – a driver who leads the bus and a conductor who brings up the rear. If the bus exceeds 6 children then additional buddies will be needed.

* **When and where does our bus run?**

Our walking bus operates on a Wednesday morning only, rain or shine. We hope to run the bus on more days in the future. It runs along one of three routes to our schools. – Tenterden South, East or West (see maps). The routes have bus stops and the time advertised on the maps is the time the bus leaves that stop. Please don’t be late as the bus cannot wait.

* **Who’s who in our walking bus?**
  + The driver and conductor are our parent volunteers known as Walking Bus Buddies and wear Tenterden Primary Federation ID badges.
  + The passengers are our pupils and parent/carers.
  + The Lead Coordinators are the Buddies responsible for the routes. They will communicate with parents/carers via whatsapp about the running of the bus.
  + The School Coordinator is the Family Liaison Manager.
* **Who can use the walking bus?**

All pupils from EYFS to Year 6 are welcome to join the bus on a Wednesday morning and their parents/carers are very welcome to walk with them. Should pupils need walking aids then we ask that parents/carers do walk with them, thank you. Please be aware that this is a walking bus only and no bikes or scooters are allowed. No dogs are allowed to accompany passengers on the Walking Bus.

* **Passengers and safety**
  + Our Walking Bus Buddies have enhanced DBS checks and are covered by Tenterden School’s Trust’s insurance.
  + Parents/Carers sign the Parental Permission Form and pupils sign the Pupil Promise – see attached. Should pupils on the bus misbehave or endanger others this will be reported to the School Coordinator and Head of Schools who will then withdraw them from the Walking Bus, if necessary.
  + In the case of an accident and passengers needing first aid, the Buddies will contact the parent/carer or school, whoever is closest. In an emergency, 999 will be called first, then the named contact and school.
  + All on the Walking Bus wear hi-vis tabards.
* **Why does TPF have a walking bus?**

There are many benefits of having a walking including promoting exercise, health and wellbeing; help the environment and reduce traffic congestion around our schools; teach pupils key road safety skills; make new friends across year groups; and to improve punctuality and attendance.

**Thank you for your interest. We hope to see you on one our buses.**