

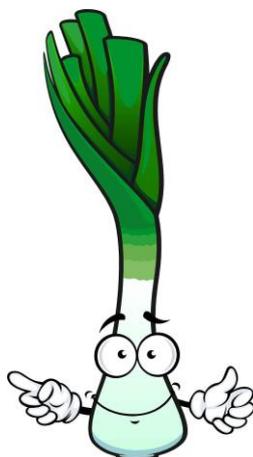
**GLADSTONE PRIMARY**

**WALKING SCHOOL BUS**

**PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET 2019**



**ROCKET**



**SUPER SPROUT**



**ZIPPY**

# WHAT IS A WALKING SCHOOL BUS?

It's an organised group of children who walk to and from school, along a designated route, under the supervision of adult volunteers. Children are 'picked up' and 'dropped off' at specific Walking School Bus (WSB) 'bus stops'.

WSBs reduce the number of cars on the road, making our environment safer and cleaner, and they provide exercise for kids in a fun and social way. In Auckland alone, there are more than 350 active WSBs, with over 4,000 children walking to school.

In 2001, Gladstone Primary School began the first WSB in New Zealand!

Gladstone currently has three WSBs:

- **Rocket** (Rossgrove Terrace) travels to near the iconic Rocket Park.
- **Super Sprout** (Asquith Avenue) passes by the former Sprout Café.
- **Zippy** (Woodward Road) is named after a zebra, and comes from a zebra crossing being a safe place to cross the road.

Gladstone has had other buses, including ***Mountain Millipede*** (which went along Carrington Rd towards the mountain) and a different bus which went along Carrington Rd towards Pt Chev. If you are interested in restarting these buses, or starting a different route please get in touch with us.

**WSBs are operated by volunteer parents and caregivers, and supported by the school and Auckland Transport. WSBs can only operate if there is parent support, as an adult to child ratio of at least 1:8 must be maintained at all times.**

# WHY USE A WSB?

## **It's great for kids!**

- Children enjoy meeting up and talking to their friends.
- They gain a sense of independence.
- Friendships develop across different age groups.
- They learn about road safety from a pedestrian's perspective.
- They develop a positive attitude towards walking.
- Improve their overall health and decrease obesity levels.
- Daily exercise can aid academic achievements, as it helps improve concentration, memory and learning.
- Kids just love the fun, organised activities and resources, such as the merit tags.

## **And there are so many reasons for parents to be involved too!**

- Enjoy extra free time when you do not have to drop off or pick up your children every day.
- Get to know the families in your neighbourhood.
- Save on fuel costs.
- Learn new skills from the optional workshops provided, such as regular First Aid courses. All workshops have certificates that are suitable for a CV.
- Have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping your child, other children, and the school.
- Take advantage of the routine exercise walking to school provides.

# HOW THE WSBs OPERATE

- All buses run daily, morning and afternoon, rain or shine, unless advised otherwise by the WSB Coordinator.
- WSBs run with an adult to child ratio of at least one adult to eight children (1:8). The adult drivers walk at the front and rear of the bus. Children must walk in between these drivers. Additional adults are welcome to walk with the bus at any time and may walk in the middle of the group.
- Drivers are provided with hi-visibility vests that clearly identify them as WSB Drivers. These vests must be worn at all times while 'driving' the WSB.
- Drivers are responsible for ensuring the children stay together in a group, walk and cross safely, and behave well, between school and their bus stop.
- WSB Route Coordinators issue a roster of parent drivers. If a driver is unable to do their rostered walk, they must arrange for the backup driver to walk instead.
- If a child is injured while on the WSB, the bus will stop and the drivers will assess the child's condition. Should the child be unable to continue with the bus, the child's parent and the school will be contacted for further advice. Under no circumstances will an injured child be left unattended.
- Children who are in Years 4, 5 & 6 are allowed to walk independently to and from bus stops. Children who are in Years 0, 1, 2 & 3 must be supervised by an adult until the bus arrives, and met by an adult at the bus stop on the return journey, unless they are accompanied by an older sibling who is in Years 4, 5, 6 or above.
- If children are walking independently to and from bus stops, they remain your responsibility. All children walking independently require a sticker on their WSB ID tag, indicating to drivers that you are allowing them to walk independently.
- If a child misses their bus at their stop in the morning and a parent is not with them, they may walk quickly and join the bus provided the bus is still visible and they do not have to cross a road. Otherwise the child should return home.

- If a parent or guardian fails to meet their child as arranged at the bus stop on the home journey, then the child will continue on the bus to the end of the route. The driver will then try to contact the child's parent. If the parent cannot be contacted the child will be taken to the school's OSCAR programme.

## WSB MERIT SCHEME

Every walk children complete on the WSB is a step towards achieving each merit tag. Auckland Transport developed the merit scheme with the belief that this incentive increases the longevity of children's involvement on the WSB.

Merit tags:

- **50 Walks**  
Completed 50 walks (2 complete WSB tickets)
- **100 Walks**  
Completed 100 walks (4 complete WSB tickets)
- **200 Walks**  
Completed 200 walks (8 complete WSB tickets)
- **300 Walks**  
Completed 300 walks (12 complete WSB tickets)
- **450 Walks**  
Completed 450 walks (18 complete WSB tickets)
- **600 Walks**  
Completed 600 walks (24 complete WSB tickets)
- **WSB Leader**  
Senior Student who regularly undertakes leadership duties
- **Winter Walker**

Consistently walking on the WSB through Terms 2 and 3

- **Road Safety**  
Demonstrates good road safety practices

The WSB Coordinator awards merit tags, and certificates are presented at school assemblies.

# WSB PLEDGE & RULES

Every child that joins the WSB must sign the WSB Pledge, which includes the following rules:

- **Listen** to the walking school bus driver.
- **Stop**, look and listen when crossing the road.
- **Walk behind** the driver but keep in a group.
- Stay on the **house side** of the footpath.
- **Walk**, do not run.
- **Share** the footpath with others.

Other WSB rules to abide by are:

- No wheels (except adults with prams/strollers).
- No dogs.
- Books, balls and other toys are to be carried in bags to avoid distraction.
- Shoes must be worn for protection against accidents.
- Hats must be worn in Terms 1 & 4 for protection against the sun.
- Children are not to interfere with public or property.
- No swearing, hitting, or fighting.
- No unsafe behaviour (e.g. running onto road).

Please ensure your child understands the WSB rules, they are to ensure the bus operates in a safe manner and shows consideration for other pedestrians, road users and residents.

## **Behaviour action plan**

1 – Spoken to by driver.

2 – If behaviour continues, parent informed.

3 – If behaviour continues, referred to Coordinator and/or Convenor.

4 – If behaviour continues, referred to Deputy Principal and/or Principal.

*Note: These steps are a recommendation only and depending on the nature and severity of the behaviour, steps may be skipped.*

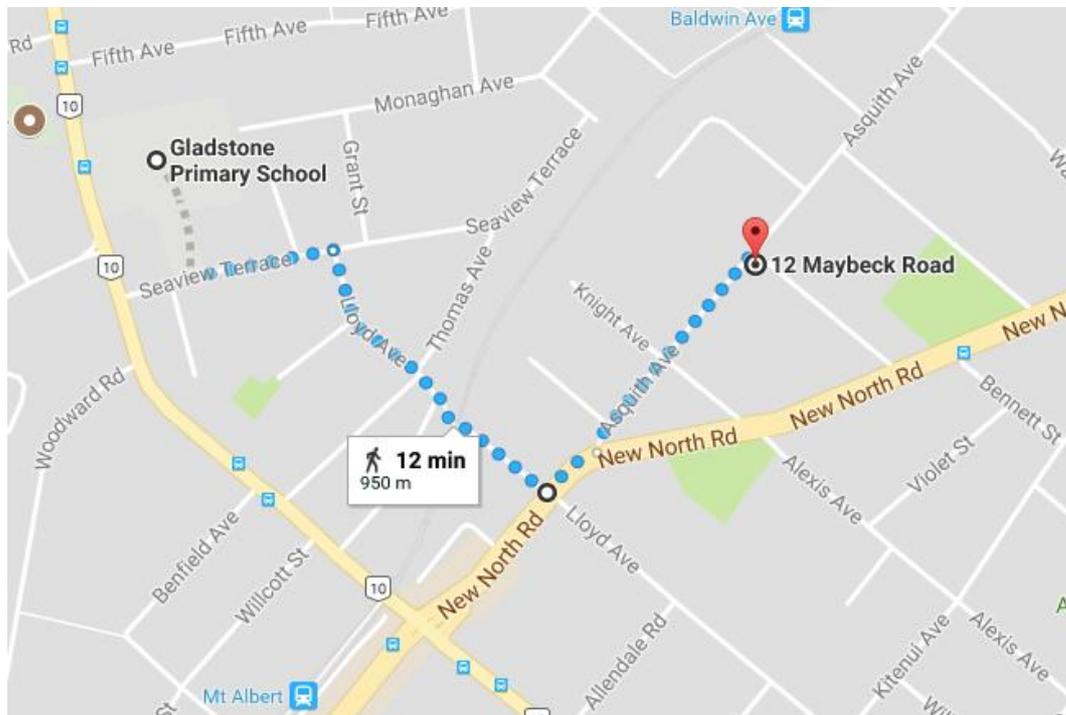
# ROCKET WSB ROUTE



The Rocket WSB starts at the corner of Rossgrove Terrace and Asquith Avenue at 8.15am. It travels the length of Rossgrove Terrace, turns left to Martin Avenue shops, and crosses Martin Avenue using the pedestrian haven island. The WSB continues along Martin Avenue, then Monaghan Avenue to school.

The bus does not operate in the afternoon.

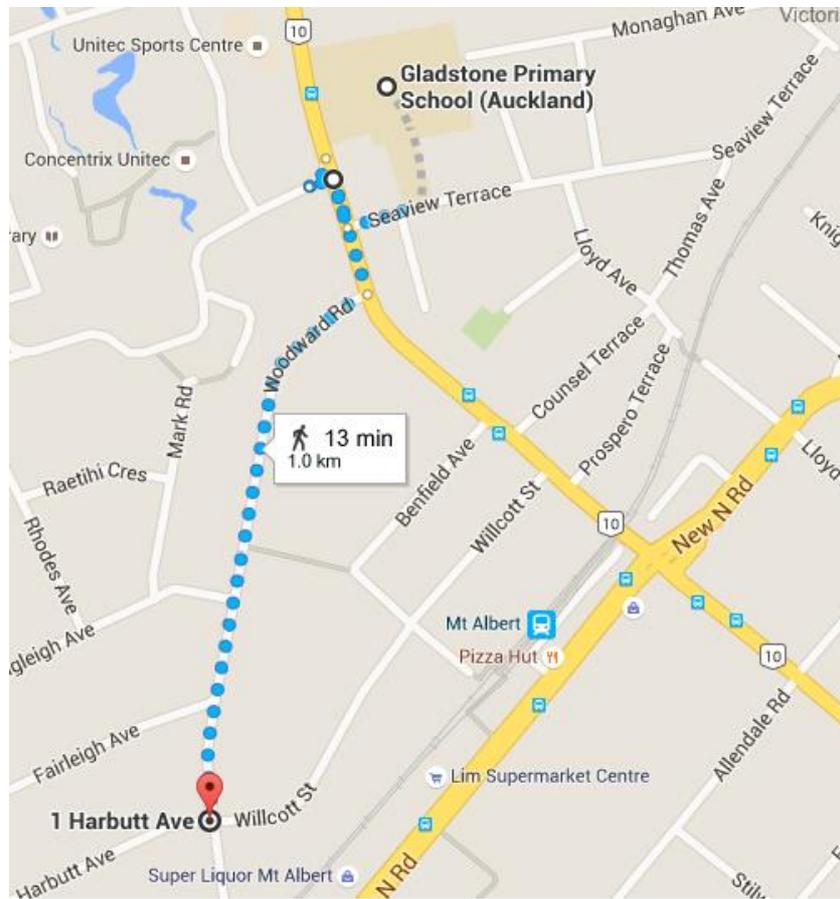
# SUPER SPROUT WSB ROUTE



The Super Sprout WSB starts on the corner of Maybeck Road and Asquith Avenue at 8.10am and travels up Asquith Avenue, crossing the road at 11 Asquith Avenue and continuing to the second bus stop at 22 Asquith Avenue, on the corner of Knight Avenue. It then continues to the third bus stop at 6 Asquith Avenue, on the corner of Fowler Avenue. It passes the former Sprout Cafe and turns right into Lloyd Avenue and crosses the railway level crossing. There is a bus stop on either side of the railway crossing. It then continues along Lloyd Avenue, crossing at 6 Lloyd Avenue, before turning left into Seaview Terrace and crossing at the pedestrian crossing, arriving at school at 8.30am.

In the afternoon the bus departs from outside the hall, by the canteen window, at 3.10pm and travels the route in reverse, ending at the Maybeck Road corner at approximately 3.30pm.

# ZIPPY WSB ROUTE



The Zippy WSB route starts at the corner of Woodward Road and Harbutt Avenue at 8.20am and travels down the west side of Woodward Road, to the first stop at Fairleigh Avenue, the second stop at Springleigh Avenue, then up to Carrington Road, and down to the signalised pedestrian crossing on Carrington Road, arriving at school at 8.35am.

In the afternoon the bus departs from outside Room 55 at 3.10pm and travels the route in reverse, ending at Harbutt Avenue at approximately 3.25pm.

# HOW TO JOIN THE WSB

- Complete the *WSB Consent Form* and *WSB Pledge* and return to the school office. Children cannot join the WSB until these documents have been received.
- Children will be issued with:
  - *Gladstone WSB ID Tag*, which enables the child to be readily identified as a WSB member. This tag should be filled in with parent or guardian contact details and should be attached to the outside of the child's school bag.
  - *WSB Bag Tag and Ticket*, which is clipped by the driver each time the child walks on the WSB. This enables the number of walks completed to be tracked and merit awards given. Merit tags are then clipped onto the bag tag as collected.
- The WSB Parent Coordinator for your route will be in touch and you will be added to the roster. If all parents volunteer to walk at least once per week, our WSBs will continue to run smoothly 📅
- Parent volunteers will be issued with:
  - *Driver Hi-Visibility Vest*
  - *Ticket Clipper*
  - *Mini First Aid Kit*
  - *Road Safety Information*