

Friday 16 May 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Habs Hubs Home to School Coach Service

We are pleased to provide further details about the Habs Hubs service for Reception to Year 2 students. The new Hub stops will offer safe and supervised access to the main home to school coach service for these year groups.

What is a Hub?

Hub stops are stops on our main home to school routes where Reception to Year 2 students will be able to board and alight. They are carefully selected stops chosen based on availability of travelling adults and our pupil's home locations. We have also worked to ensure Habs Hub stops are distributed across the network to offer convenient access for all families.

Who can use a Hub?

All Habs students can book to board or alight the home to school coach service at a Hub stop, however, Reception to Year 2 students can *only* access the service at a Hub stop for safety reasons (subject to Terms of Service).

Are there any booking requirements?

All Hub passengers in Reception to Year 2 must commit to a regular travel pattern. Ad-hoc or short-term travel is not available to pupils in these year groups for safeguarding reasons. All tickets are sold subject to availability.

Where are the Hubs?

We are still finalising the locations of all Hub stops, but the current working list follows. This list is not definitive and may be subject to change:

- St Albans: Ashley Road
- Leverstock Green
- Rickmansworth Station
- High Barnet Station
- Harrow-on-the-Hill
- Willesden: Walm Lane
- Stanmore: Wemborough Road
- Radlett Post Office

For families who are in the West Hampstead, Mill Hill and Hampstead Garden Suburbs areas, the LittleHabs service route LH01 will continue to operate in September 2025.

When will the Hub service start?

You will be able to use the new Hubs from Monday 15 September 2025. We are not launching the service during the first week of the school year, to allow our Hub passengers time to settle into the Habs community and get used to 'big school'.

The final list of Hub stops for September 2025 will be confirmed in the second half of the Summer Term. If you are interested in your child travelling on one of these routes, please



[click here](#) to complete an expression of interest. Please note this is not a guarantee of travel, nor a commitment to travel.

What do I need to know?

The [Terms of Service](#) for all home to school coach services has been reviewed to reflect the introduction of Hubs. Please note the following important points in relation to Hub stops.

- Reception to Year 2 pupils will be able to travel to and from Habs Hubs on the morning and 4.15 afternoon coach services only. They will not be able to travel on the 5.30 late afternoon service.
- For safety reasons, permission to use the Habs Hub service is at the discretion of the respective Head of the Boys' Prep School and Girls' Junior School.
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework dictates the standards which must be met for pupils under Habs care. These standards form the foundation for Habs coach provision for Reception to Year 2. Please note:
 - The standard for pupils in Reception are markedly different to those for pupils in Year 1 and Year 2, particularly in regard to ratios of adult supervision.
 - The wellbeing and safety of our pupils is paramount and combined with the EYFS regulatory requirements Habs must adhere to, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils will always be prioritised over parent convenience.
 - This may mean, in exceptional circumstances, we are unable to provide the coach service for Hub passengers. Examples might include staff absence due to supporting trips, parent/teacher evenings, illness etc.
 - Our intention will always be to source alternative cover, but this may not always be possible. You will be advised of the process around this in the Summer Term.
- Seat belt adapters are strongly recommended for use by Reception to Year 2 pupils travelling on coaches. These will need to be sourced by the pupil's family.
- You may choose to provide a booster seat for your child. There will be storage available at the coach park for your child to use during the day. Full car seats cannot be used. ISO-FIX points are not available on the coaches and given the size, children will be unable to carry them on and off the coach.
- A parent guardian will need to be with the pupil until they board the coach and must be at the Habs Hub to collect them.
- Arrangements may be available to families of pupils in Year 1 or Year 2 (not Reception) with siblings in Year 10 or above to be their sibling's Hero. This is at the discretion of the School Head and must be agreed at least 2-weeks in advance of travel.
- The Habs Terms of Service will apply at all times.
- There will be an administrative surcharge of £5 per journey above standard coach fares for Reception to Year 2 pupils during the trial period. This rate will be reviewed during the trial and may be subject to change for September 2025.

For any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Transport Office at transport@habselstree.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Joanna Meaden
Head of Commercial Operations

Ms Emma Summers
Transport Manager