

## Boat Crossing over the Thames

Latest info from Thames Clippers is that they have signed up the Predator for next year. This is a stable well equipped ex police boat. Soon the "new" Predator will be in play and can be used by accompanied children. Some work is needed at each pier to make boarding safe for the boat, but when ready Thames Clippers will draft some operational procedures for the school run. There will be a cost for this starting in the next few weeks.

The costs are

<b>Ticket Type</b>	<b>Price</b>
Single	£2.00
Weekly Pass	£15.00
Monthly	£40.00
6 Month	£200.00
Annual	£375.00

They have confirmed that if the parent/guardian pays £2 (or gets a season ticket) per trip. They can take the child with them for free. Tickets will be purchased on the boat itself and the crew will have the relevant ticketing equipment onboard.

They anticipate to have completed the production of three boarding ramps shortly, one at TBW and two for QE2 providing step-free access to people using the service. They can then accommodate the children to use the service to access school. There will be conditions for the use by children and they will be as follows;

- They are accompanied by a guardian that will accept the terms of travel and safety requirements prior to use and if this guardian is not the parent, they will require a letter from the parents giving permission to the guardian allowing them to travel with the child on the boat.
- There will only be 2 sailings in the morning and 2 sailings in the evening that can be used by children so we would appreciate some guidance as to the best suited times for this?
- The operator reserves the right to refuse travel should weather conditions make it unsafe.

**New Model schools Company also require that each child under the age of eleven should wear a lifejacket on board.**

Boats from QE2 wharf leave at 8.15 & 8.30. The two afternoon boats leave Trinity Buoy Wharf in the afternoon at 3.45. and 5.00. It is worth noting that the parent/guardian would have to make sure that for the return journey they themselves leave enough time to be at the school door at 3.30pm (or 4.45pm), in order to leave adequate time for the child to walk carefully down to the boat to ready for its departure.