



Transition for Children with Additional Needs

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What school offers



For all:

Teacher meetings to exchange information

SENCO meetings to exchange information

File exchange to pass on information

Visits

Timetable and maps

What school offers



For those with additional needs:

Extra visits – to secondary and staff to primary

Question and answer sessions

Visual supports like timetables and time to talk them through at their current school

Social stories around change can be written

Photo books can be created



Halsford Park - Transition timeline Summer and Autumn Term 2024



Children in Early Years to Year 5

Summer Term 2024

Transition activity	When will this happen?	Further information
Early Years secret missions	WB 17 th June – ongoing	The children will begin to visit the year 1 classrooms and spaces to familiarise themselves with the areas.
Year 2 visit Key Stage 2	WB 24 th June - ongoing	The children will visit the Key stage 2 areas to familiarise themselves. This will include the classrooms and playground as well as practising walking in through Key Stage 2 so they know where to go when they return in September.
Children and parents told who the new class teacher/s will be	Friday 28 th June	Children will be informed in the afternoon about who their new teacher/s and parents will be notified via email in the afternoon. We will also send a social story about meet the teach afternoon for you to share at home.
Transition assembly	Monday 1 st July	Miss Loftus will lead a whole Key stage assembly, sharing things that will be the same in school and things that will be different in preparation for meet the teacher afternoon. This will be sent to parents/carers after the assembly so they can also see the content and discuss at home.
Classroom visits	WB 1 st July – ongoing	Teachers will visit the children in their existing classroom over the course of the week to familiarise themselves with in class provision and get to know them.
Meet my teacher sheet sent to all children	Tuesday 2 nd July	Children will bring home their sheet which will tell them about their new teacher/s so they can find out a little more about them before they meet them.
Meet my teacher/s afternoon	Wednesday 3 rd July	Children will spend time with their new class teacher/s in their new classroom.
Personalised social stories for identified learners	Friday 19 th July	This will have photographs of key areas to help the child familiarise themselves and have pictures of key adults that they will be working with.
Postcard sent	Friday 19 th July	We would advise to open week beginning 26 th August, however as we know all children are different, parents can choose when they feel this will be most suitable for their child.

Autumn Term 2024

Transition activity	When will this happen?	Further information
Class social story	Monday 1 st September	Sent to all learners with photographs of their new teacher/s and new classroom -
Moving on up to year... sent to all children	Date TBC - in the Autumn Term.	Shared at the 'Moving to year...' meeting in the Autumn Term 2024 – this will share key things that the children can look forward to in their new year group e.g upcoming trips, experiences etc.

Making choices



Open days/evenings – Autumn term

1:1 visits – can be arranged before or after

Contact the office of the secondary school for more information

The SENCo at secondary school will also be able to offer more information

Look on the secondary school's website too

Making choices



Look at what the basic offer is

Consider what your child needs in addition

Ask for what you think they might need

Listen to Concerns



The best way to reassure someone about any transition is to first listen to their concerns and acknowledge that their feelings are valid.

Provide reassurance that whatever they are feeling is OK. As adults, we often want to rush in and fix problems or help to logically explain away the concerns.

Focus on the feelings and emotions rather than on practicalities at this stage. Some fear or concern about change is normal and it is this degree of concern that helps us to make plans to ensure our safety.

Responses to worries



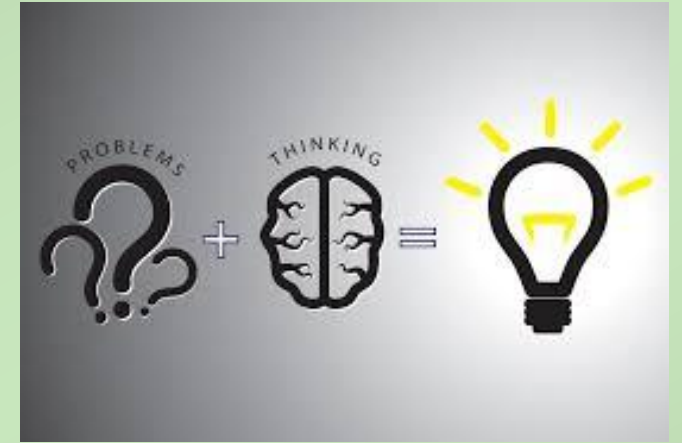
As parents we want to fix things. Try not to do this.

Instead of saying, "You're too young to worry about that" , try "I can see how that would make you feel worried."

Instead of, "You don't need to feel sad" , try "It's understandable that this would make you feel sad."

Instead of, "Just forget about it" , try asking them what their feelings are about it.

Involve your Child



A PROBLEM-SOLVING APPROACH

Once your child has told you about their feelings they can be encouraged to focus on what they can do to manage.

Particularly with older children, a problem-solving approach can be helpful.

Encourage them to generate a range of possible solutions to the problems they raise. Then help them to select the ones that they think will work best for them.

Emphasise what will be the same

It often helps when we are worried to think about what will be the same:

- Teachers and other adults will help
- You will have a tutor who is like your class teacher now
- There will still be breaktime, lunchtime and hometime

Focus on the positives



Encourage your child to talk about the things they are looking forward to.

If they can't think of anything, ask them to have a think and you will speak again later. Ask them to think of just one thing. You could also suggest some things for them to choose from.

Share Information



Provide as much information as possible.

Emphasising what will be the same will be reassuring to your child.

Remember to use the tools provided by the new school or class.

Ask for more



More information can be asked for especially if your child has a question that hasn't been answered.

Social stories can be written by school to help – please ask for what you now your child needs.








Ask for extra visits.

Routine

Go over new routines

Use the tools given e.g. timetables


Practise new routines like routes to school

School timetable					Name: Kim	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
9.00 - 10.30	English 	maths 	history 	English 	science 	
Break						
11.00 - 12.30	maths 	IT 	science 	maths 	English 	
Lunch time						
1.30 - 3.00	geography 	music 	PE 	drama 	art 	
After school	football 		piano 		swimming 	


Educational Psychology


If your child is particularly anxious and you have already sought all the help possible from school.


https://westsussex.local-offer.org/information_pages/608-resources-and-advice-for-supporting-home-learning



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The Educational Psychology service offers the opportunity for schools and parents to book a 30-minute telephone consultation slot with an Educational Psychologist.

Further Resources

- <https://sussexcamhs.nhs.uk/help-support/young-people/anxiety-yp/>
- <http://www.oswaldroad.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/7waysanxiety.pdf>
- <https://www.annafreud.org>
- <https://youngminds.org.ukhttps://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/family-life/back-to-school-transition-after-lockdown/>

Concerns

What are your concerns?



If you have any questions please contact your child's class teacher.

