



## Transition Toolkit

As you draw up your new transition policy/ plan with your team, here are some ideas to help you to approach the new challenges that you might be faced with...

### **Possible barriers to transition**

- School remains closed to most children and parents meaning no visits, tours, induction meetings for parents.
- Children don't return to school until September meaning months away from school life, school routines, friends.
- Some children return in June/July, others not until September. How do you create a cohesive class unit in these circumstances?

### **What you could we do?**

1. A virtual tour for children and parents. You could use the children and staff who are currently in school to create an online virtual tour of the school. If you have any current KS1 children in school, they could do a tour of the year 1 classroom showing all of the exciting resources and areas of provision that the current FS2 children can look forward to. This could also be done for any other year group, maybe every year group!
2. The Head/ Deputy/ FS leader could create an online virtual induction meeting for parents. They could address any questions by having an online chat available afterwards or setting up an email address especially for induction/ transition questions (there are bound to be lots, understandably!).
3. The FS2/ year 1 teachers could post out or email welcome packs. Think of some extra details that could be included, e.g photos of the classroom, photos of staff, an 'all about me' page to introduce the adults.
4. Induction packs could be delivered to the new children personally. This would allow children to see you (from a safe distance) and adds a personal touch. This would be time consuming, especially for multiple form entry schools, but could really aid transition.
5. Staff could send 'welcome to your new class' postcards to new starters. Everyone loves getting post!
6. A 'transition/ induction help page' could be created on your school website to answer any FAQs.
7. A welcome phone call from the new teachers or the Head teacher could really put parents' minds at rest.
8. Induction bags/ backpacks could be delivered to the houses of new starters. This would be dependent on budgets but could be done fairly cheaply. Things to possibly include - reading books, pencils, paper, a dice, a game to play, a laminated name card to practise writing over, a worry doll (this could be a simple peg doll), a 'book of me' for each child to bring in to school with them,

a photo challenge for them to complete, a personalised note/ letter from their new teacher.

9. Teachers could make a video of '5 things you should know about me' to go out to new children. In return, children could make videos of themselves and email them to school. You could then start the year knowing a few key things/ interests about each child.
10. Try to find out from parents what the children have been doing during lockdown. Have they still attended a setting due to parents' jobs? Have they been able to play out in a garden/been on daily walks? Have they been mostly staying indoors? What activities have they been doing – cooking, gardening, crafts etc or lots of TV and ipad time? This will help you to think about what provision you might need to focus on in September.
11. Ensure your EYFS children are included in your school's plan for mental health/bereavement counselling and ensure that any specialists you have in school are experienced with working with very young children and that time is given to them. If your school plans to hold additional assemblies etc for the older children remember that your class will probably not be ready to attend these in the Autumn term but still need to be supported.
12. In September, depending on your induction process (and social distancing measures that may still be in place), consider stay and play sessions in small groups for parents to support children with a smooth and happy start to their day. Induction could also be in small buddy groups rather than the whole class to familiarise children with their new surroundings and to reduce their anxiety.
13. Ensure your timetable includes lots of opportunities to talk, both with the children but also with parents and carers who might be very anxious about their little ones starting school in the current climate.

This list is not exhaustive and there will be many more fabulous things you will think of, but anything we can do to ease the transition for these little people will be appreciated by parents and carers and will, hopefully, make their journey back into school full of excitement rather than anxiety.