

Starting School



Transitions: Ideas for Schools

In addition to your usual transition visits, you may also wish to consider these suggestions:

- Record a practitioner reading 'starting school' books to share on your school website/ Facebook page. (Please check publishers copyright first)
- Gather a list of good starting school books to share with parents (website/Facebook page/email).
- Make a virtual school or classroom tour which could be shared on the school website or use photos to make a PowerPoint to share via email or on the website.
- Make a 'New Starters' part of the school website to upload information such as PE kit requirements, drop off and pick up times, breakfast or after school clubs.
- Ask key members of staff to record introductions to themselves to post on the school website or email to parents. This will help children to get to know them.
- Use photos to make a school transition book to publish on your website. You could include cloakrooms, library, playground, lunch hall etc.
- School readiness is not just about a child being ready for school but for schools to be ready for their new children. Consider sending out a 'getting to know me' questionnaire for children to complete with their parents e.g. favourite toy/ story/ song/ food/ pets/ siblings etc.
- Ask children to draw a picture and display it in your classroom in September.
- Ask parents to send a photo of their child so coat pegs etc. can be labelled ready for the children starting.
- Include a photo of the school uniform on the website, along with details of any specific suppliers.
- Share a timetable of the school day, include PE days when kit will be needed.
- Share top tips for parents to get their child 'school ready' e.g. being able to put on their own coat, dressing skills, independent toileting skills etc.
- Share the Cumberland Council 'Help your child get ready for school' leaflet with your parents.
- Consider the flexibility of the first couple of weeks in Reception. Are there any children who may find starting school particularly challenging? Would a graduated start be appropriate for some children? This needs to be agreed with parents.