

Friday 10th June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Transition Information for our new Year 3 Cohort: September 2022

We are delighted that you and your family have chosen to join the Solent Schools community this September. As we are sure you can imagine, transition from the infant to the junior school site is one very important part of this and one we value greatly. This event always brings with it a mixed response. For some, the Junior School will already be a place they are familiar and feel comfortable with. For others this may be the first real opportunity they have had to experience the Solent Schools!

Year 3 Parent Meetings

On Friday 1st July at 9.10am there will be a "New to Year 3" Parent and Carer meeting. The aim of this meeting is to give you key information about the junior school, such as the first day, timetable and school life. It will also be a brief opportunity to meet your child's class teacher again and have a quick tour of the school with the Year 6 Senior Pupils. To book a place at the meeting please follow the link [HERE](#).

In the Autumn term, once your child has started at the Junior School, there will be a meeting providing further information about Year 3 and Junior School life. The date for this meeting will be Tuesday 20th September from 6-7pm. A letter regarding this meeting and a link to online registration will be sent home at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Buddies

The Solent Schools work closely together on a number of initiatives in order to make this transition run as smoothly as possible. One of these is a project in which all Year 2 pupils are paired or 'buddied' with pupils from the current Year 5. This includes those pupils who join us from other infant schools, should they wish to participate. We will be able to liaise with your current school to see if this is possible. The aim of the project is to ensure that every child feels positive about the move, confident about their next steps and that the changeover is as seamless as possible. For those pupils who may be feeling particularly anxious about the move, a series of extra visits can be arranged involving activities aimed at allaying fears and general confidence building. If we feel that your child would benefit from these extra sessions then we will of course inform you first. Equally, if you have any worries about your child at this time, please do contact the Head of School directly and they can discuss provision with you.

We are currently in the process of allocating each pupil with a Year 5 buddy. The Year 5 pupils can then visit the Infant School. This gives the Year 2 pupils the opportunity to get to know the older pupils within a familiar environment in which they feel comfortable. The first session for the buddy visit is Wednesday 15th June at Solent Infant School, 2.15pm-2.45pm. It will be Arts Week at the infant school, so we are asking if the Year 2 pupils can work with the Year 5 pupils on a fun Art activity during this time.

The next sessions for the Buddy visits will take place at the Junior School and will be on Friday 24th June and Friday 1st July from 2.00pm until 2.45pm. During these visits, the children will have an opportunity to tour the school, visiting shared spaces such as the hall, library, rainbow and music room. They will also be involved in some fun sports activities to help them become familiar with our playground.

Solent Junior School
Solent Road, Drayton, Portsmouth, PO6 1HJ

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Chief Executive Officer: Ms S F Spivey BSc MA



The process does not end here! Those pupils, who were Year 5 buddies in July, will of course become well respected Year 6 pupils in September. These pupils will then provide a valuable point of contact for their younger buddies. In our experience this contact varies greatly, depending on need, from a friendly 'hello' in the corridor to somebody to share games with at playtime. Each of these cases is, of course, as valuable and supportive as the other.

Whilst we appreciate that every child brings their own feelings to every situation, we feel confident that this process is invaluable to all children, irrespective of how they are feeling. It not only provides the younger pupils with a reassuring insight into what will happen in September and our Year 6 pupils with a sense of responsibility, but it also equips them with the reassurance that Junior School is a wonderfully exciting place to be!

Transition Days

The children are invited to spend time at the Junior School on Monday 4th July and Tuesday 5th July. These are City Wide transition days supported by most Portsmouth Schools. On these two days Solent Infant School staff will walk your child over to the juniors from 9.30am to 2.30pm. During this time, they will have opportunities to meet their new friends, become increasingly familiar with the school environment and meet their new teachers for the extended transition visits. On these days we would ask that your child brings in a packed lunch for them to eat during lunchtime.

If your child does not currently attend Solent Infant School they are more than welcome to join in with the Buddy sessions and transition days. We would ask that you contact the school office to let them know they will be attending. I have sent the details of our transition arrangements to your child's current infant school, so that they are aware of the dates and times.

We do hope this information is of help and if you should have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred
Head of School

Mrs Wilby
Executive Headteacher

