

Friday 17th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Transition Information for our new Year 3 Cohort: September 2024

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 Thursday 13th June at 9.10am there will be a “New to Year 3” Parents and Carers meeting. The aim of this meeting is to give you key information about the junior school, such as the first day, timetable, school life. It will also be a brief opportunity to meet your child’s class teacher again and have a brief tour of the school with the Year 6 Senior Pupils. To book a place on 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 around mid-September and a letter regarding this meeting and a link to online registration will be sent home at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Buddies

Over the past few years The Solent Schools have been working jointly 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 have allocated each pupil with a Year 5 buddy. On Friday 24th May in the afternoon, the Year 5 pupils will visit the Infant School. This will give the Year 2 pupils the opportunity to get to know the older pupils within a familiar environment in which they feel comfortable.

There will be more sessions for the Buddy visits taking place at the Junior School on Friday 7th June and Thursday 20th June from 2.00pm until 2.45pm. During these visits the children will have an opportunity to ask their buddies questions about anything they are worried about, 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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THE
 **DE CURCI TRUST**

The De Curci Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 10646541. Its registered office address is Springfield School, Central Road, Portsmouth, PO6 1QY, United Kingdom. Solent Junior School is a business name used by The De Curci Trust.

Trustees: C Batstone, H Bement, K Bochen, A Cufley, S Hamilton, A Eales, D Smith, S Spivey.
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 1st July and Tuesday 2nd July. These are City Wide transition days supported by most Portsmouth Schools. On these two days, please drop your child off at the infant school at the normal time. Then your child will be brought over from the infant school to the junior school from 9.30am to 2.30pm. They will be returned to the infant school, ready for normal collection. 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 packed lunch for them to eat during lunchtime.

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

We look forward to these exciting visits and to welcoming your children once more.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred
Head of School

Mrs Wilby
Executive Headteacher

