



23.5.22

Reception Transition to Year 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

As an EYFS team we have been thinking about the transition to Year 1 for our current reception classes since the start of the spring term. As a school our policy is to look at each cohort and decide if the classes need to be mixed going from Reception into Year 1. Before making a decision we carefully consider the balance of the Reception classes looking at the mix of Autumn, Spring and Summer borns, any needs in the class and any disruption the children may have faced. e.g. due to COVID or staff changes. We also consider the nature of each class, friendships that have developed and the learning behaviour.

We feel that due to our robust transition programme which started in July 2021 when the children came for play and stay sessions. Staff were able to meet the children before they were grouped and we were also informed of prior friendships, considered feeder nursery settings and any needs that were identified. This was all considered when deciding on the classes and as a result the children settled quickly. The Reception classes are well balanced and learning behaviour is positive.

The children have had a successful full year in education after an unsettled few years prior linked to COVID and as they prepare to move into Year 1 we will build on this experience. Therefore, we have decided to keep the classes the same for the children's transition to Year 1. The children will remain as a class group in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 if they transition to Hampton Junior school. At the end of Year 3 the children are mixed going into Year 4.

We want the Reception children to move into Year 1 feeling confident, safe and secure. One of the ways we can help to ensure this is the case for September is by keeping a sense of familiarity for the children by keeping them with their peers in the same class. This then allows us to facilitate a smooth and enhanced transition into Year 1. The decision to keep the Reception classes as they are will ensure the Year 1 team can spend time getting to know their new class frequently.

In the last couple of weeks of this term, each class will have a focus on transition to Year 1. The children will see lots of photographs of the Year 1 classrooms, toilets, playground as well as the staff in year 1. The Year 1 class teachers will be visiting the children in their classes as well as creating a video for their class where they introduce themselves and read a story. These will be available on our home support





site in July. There will also be lots of information on the routines and structures in Year 1 which we will share with the children as part of the transition focus and should also be reinforced by families at home.

Our transition across the school holds children at the centre, with a clear understanding of their social, emotional and intellectual needs, ensuring they have the most positive journey through our school. The children have been at the forefront of the decision making. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you need reassurance.

Yours sincerely,

The Reception Team

