

Transition from early years settings into Year R at school 2020

www.portsmouth.gov.uk

This set of key messages for starting school has been created by the transitions workstream and endorsed by Head teachers in Portsmouth. The purpose of these key messages is to support parents in understanding the importance of children starting in Year R together in September.

Some parents may be feeling anxious about a school start for their child. These messages are designed to reassure parents and highlight the benefits of their child starting school together with their class, as learners and friends, who will be supported by the class teacher and other school staff.

Please use these messages (where you feel appropriate) when you have conversations with parents about starting school. We will be sharing them with parents through the early year's social media pages and on the PCC website.

The importance of starting school

- Starting school is a positive adventure. Head teachers, teachers and school staff will be happily waiting for your child to start their school journey and are excited and ready to welcome new Year R children.
- Children feel settled and develop a sense of belonging, outside of their homes and families, when they do things together as a school group and share experiences together. There is enormous benefit to children starting school at the same time - they will feel part of the group from the beginning and make friends more easily.
- We know that children are naturally inquisitive. They seek out adventure and thrive on being active, being able to play and be with other people. Schools are set up for this and will help your child make new friends and have fun in their learning.
- Children need structure, routine and consistency. Being at school will give your child the structure they need and help them to adapt to any new and changing routines.
- We have already seen that children coming back into school or nursery, following long periods at home, have returned eagerly and have settled very quickly. Young children are resilient and able to cope with change with the right support. Our city schools have skilled staff in place who are dedicated to looking after children's well-being and education.

What schools in Portsmouth will do to help your child into school

- Schools in the city will be following national and local guidance on the pandemic and are making detailed arrangements and managing risks so that children can get back to learning in school and making new friends. Children who start in Year R are part of the whole school plan to get more children back into education. The arrangements may look different in each school. Contact your child's school or have a look at their website to find out more.
- All schools will have conversations with pre-schools, nurseries, child minders and of course parents, to find out about the children who are starting school. This will help Year R teachers to understand who your child is, what they can do and plan to meet their individual needs. Don't forget to tell your child's nursery or child minder which school they are going to.
- Schools are at the heart of local communities. Our city schools help children and parents to feel connected and are a source of support as well as learning.
- If your child has additional needs or you are worried that they won't be able to cope at school, then contact the school's SENCO. The SENCO will be able to talk about the learning in school and reassure you.
- If you have not already applied for a school place for September, contact the Admissions Team - Email us at: admissions@portsmouthcc.gov.uk Telephone: 023 9268 8008 or download a starting school application form from the website - www.portsmouth.gov.uk