

Highfield Primary School



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Headteacher - *David Wilson B.A. (Hons)*

Deputy Headteachers–

Stephanie Morton B.A. (Hons)

Dear Parents/Carers,

The transition from Reception to Year 1 can be a big step for some children, and even more so this year as most children will have been away from school for many months. Therefore, it is important that our young children have consistency and familiarity on return to school in September. As a result, we have planned an excellent transition from Reception to Year 1. I would like to share with you some of the things we will be doing to make the change, and your children's return to school, as smooth as possible.

For the first half term, our Year 1 classroom environments will offer some continuity with the EYFS curriculum. This familiarity will provide an element of security and self-confidence to our younger pupils. Our Year 1 classroom environments will have group tables for group work and the classroom will have different areas the children can independently explore such as: a construction area, calming area, role play area and a writing area. The children will also be able to experience outdoor learning. The mornings will consist of a Phonic session followed by an English and Maths session. In the afternoons, the focus will be either topic based, humanities or science based.

By week beginning Monday 28th September, another group table will be introduced into the classroom environment. This will enable Guided Reading to start. There will still be different areas (indoor and outdoor) in the classroom for the pupils to explore, but there will be children working in groups so they can start gradually a smooth transition into the Year 1 curriculum.

During week 3 and 4- 21st and 28th September, phonic screening and individual reading benchmarks will take place. This will enable us to plan for future phonic sessions and the teaching of reading. During these weeks, children will still be provided with a rich, high-quality curriculum and there will be a mixture of adult-led group work and independent learning. By October half term our Year 1 pupils will have made a successful transition to the Year 1 curriculum. Building up towards the end of the Autumn term, the Year one classroom environment will be adapted to children sitting in rows in accordance with government guidelines.

You might also like to talk to your child about their experiences of Reception - What did they enjoy? What did they enjoy learning about? What are they looking forward to about Year 1? Do they have any worries or concerns? Are they feeling excited/nervous/shy (or a combination of all those feelings)?

We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back in September,
Yours faithfully,

Mel Wren, Assistant Headteacher

"The Headteacher's passion for ensuring all pupils receive an outstanding education is tangible in all aspects of the school's work."

Highfield Primary is an Outstanding School - Ofsted 2016

