

Moving from Reception to Year 1

Tips for Parents and Carers

Some children move into Year 1 without a backward glance, whilst others can struggle. Here are the reasons why, along with some ideas for things you can do to prepare your child for this stage in their school life.

Why can transition to year 1 be tricky?

Learning in reception is play-based. Children have lots of freedom to choose their own activities and can move on to something else when they choose. In year 1, learning becomes more formal, subject-based and adult-directed. Children can often struggle with this, especially if they have special needs or are young for their year group.

Expectations increase in year 1. Children need to be able to follow instructions, focus for longer periods and become more independent. We also encourage the children to take responsibility for their own belongings and the classroom resources.

There are fewer opportunities to 'let off steam'.

Homework expectations often increase.

Children have to cope with all of this, along with lots of other changes, such as new teachers, new classroom and possibly new classmates.

For parents, there are often fewer opportunities for day-to-day contact with teaching staff.

What will the school do to prepare my child?

We understand how difficult this transition can be and will support the children using a variety of methods.

At the beginning of the new school year, we will continue to provide some play-based learning opportunities, particularly for those children identified as needing this.

We have had a number of transition days in the summer term, where children have had the opportunity to spend some time in their new classroom with their new teachers and adults, so hopefully they are beginning to know the new systems and expectations.

What can parents and carers do?

Talk positively about the move to year 1 and play down your own anxieties if you have them. For example, instead of saying things like, 'You'll have to work a lot harder in year 1', say, 'It will be exciting to learn about new things, won't it?'

Read, read, read. Reading **with and to** your child is the single most powerful thing you can do to support their learning and progress at school.

Encourage your child to write, but make it fun and meaningful. For example, writing a shopping list for a meal they have chosen, writing a holiday diary or sending a postcard to Granny and Grandad.

Practise telling the time to the hour and half hour on a clock with hands.

Practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, talk about 'more than' and 'less than'.

Practise handwriting and letter formation. If your child has a weak grip or struggles to hold a pencil, strengthen their fingers using activities such as playdough, bead threading, construction with bricks and card lacing.

Now the new term has started:

Continue to talk positively about school and focus on your child's good experiences.

Do come in with any concerns or worries – we are always here to listen and support the children and parents. Ultimately, we want everyone to be happy!

Plan in some relaxed time at home each evening so that your child still has opportunities for undirected 'play' time.

Don't build in too many organised activities, such as after-school clubs, until you know your child is settled.

If there is homework to be completed, make sure your child has chance to wind down and let off some steam first.

We will be holding an open-afternoon on Wednesday 27th September from 2.30 where you will be able to come and share a book with your child and talk to the Kingfisher team, if you have any concerns. Further details to follow.