

22.6.2020

Dear Parents/Carers of children in Year 6

Year 6 transfer to secondary school

I am writing to update you on the plans we have at this point to support our Year 6 children as they prepare to start secondary school in September.

Liaison with secondary schools has been ongoing this term, and Year 6 teachers have spoken on the telephone with colleagues from the secondary schools our pupils will be transferring to. Ms Evans is also doing the same thing specifically for those children who have additional learning needs. Secondary schools are very aware that they do not have the usual kind of opportunities to meet children in person, but it may be that your child's school will have some arrangements in place for online meetings to take place. Please do check your child's secondary school website; links to the local schools our children are transferring to are at the end of this letter.

Year 6 children who are attending school in a 'bubble' will be having a couple of short lessons each week on secondary transfer, using a series of 10 lessons called 'Crossing the Bridge'. For those children who are not in school, each week, Miss Wattis and Mrs Dowdall will add information on the lessons to the Year 6 Transition to Secondary School Project page on eSchools (a link is on the Class 13 and Class 14 home pages). I have added a pdf of these lessons onto the Year 6 page on the Home Learning Hub (https://www.arbury.cambs.sch.uk/website/year_6/468035) in case you would like your child to use it at home. We will also be sending out a hard copy to all children who are not in a bubble in school.

The current situation is not the ending to primary school which any of us would have planned for our Year 6 children. We would normally be working on our production, visiting secondary schools for transition days, and in the last few days of term, having our Leavers' Lunch, Leavers' Assembly and also a chance in assembly for the whole school to say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6s. This year is very different, and it will feel very different.

However, here are our plans for some of the ways we will celebrate our Year 6s leading up to the end of term:

- We will have a reunion gathering in the new school year as soon as we can do so in accordance with government guidance on social distancing etc
- We will be producing a video for the school website with photographs of the children from our school photo archive, and including current photographs and messages from our Y6s (if your child would like to record a video message, that is fine)
- Children will all receive a dictionary and a leavers' t-shirt
- Children lower down the school will also have the chance to send messages to the Y6s to wish them luck

We need your help with these things (please email through to me, at drawlins@arbury.cambs.sch.uk, and I will collect them so that the messages are not posted on eSchools and will be a lovely surprise when the video is launched!):

- Letting us know as soon as possible if you do not want your child's name to be on the leaver's t-shirt or in the video on the school website
- Emailing in a current photograph of your child and a written message to go into the video, or to send in a video message instead (or both, of course, if they wish!)

We know that you are each doing a wonderful job in supporting your children through this time of endings and beginnings. It is very natural for children to feel excited, but also anxious, and for you to be anxious too, especially if you are waiting for the outcome of an admissions appeal. Do take advantage of any chance to talk to your child's new school, and to use the content on their website to answer some of the questions you may have.

With best wishes

Diane Rawlins
Deputy Headteacher

Useful links:

Childline guidance on starting a new school <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/moving-schools/#Tipsforstartinganewschool>

Guidance for parents/carers on helping their child prepare practically before the move to secondary school <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znncpq8>

Chesterton 'Welcome Year 6' section has lots of information for children and parents/carers <https://ccc.cambridgeshireeducationaltrust.org/>

North Cambridge Academy <https://northcambridgeacademy.org/year-6-transition/> See also NCA PowerPoint and booklet for children who are on the SEND register, or who are anxious about the transition to secondary school – link here is to our school Home Learning Hub Year 6 page: https://www.arbury.cambs.sch.uk/website/year_6/468035

Netherhall School <https://www.netherhall.org/>

Bottisham Village College <https://www.bottishamvc.org/>

St Bede's Inter-Church School <https://www.st-bedes.org.uk/index.asp>

The Perse School <https://www.perse.co.uk/>

