



Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg
Assistant Headteacher: Sarah Dodd

Wednesday 17th June 2020

Year 6 to Year 7 Transition and Induction to Secondary School

Letter from Rochdale Local Authority

Dear parent/carer,

Firstly, we'd like to thank you for doing such an incredible job in supporting your child at home over the last few months. We know that this has not been easy at times, but please know that your support has been greatly valued as we work together through these unusual and testing times.

As you are aware, your Year 6 child is due to leave Primary School this summer to begin their Secondary School journey in September.

The move from Primary to Secondary is a big step for our children: Rochdale schools have always worked extremely hard to make this transition as smooth as possible, supporting our Year 6 children through this change in a range of ways.

Obviously, this year is going to look a little different, but we wanted to assure you that the transition to Secondary School from Primary is still very important to us and that it hasn't been forgotten.

This final term is usually spent ensuring that our Year 6 pupils are as well-equipped as they can be for their new adventure and their teachers in both Year 6 and Year 7 work together to answer questions, ease worries and prepare children for the move.

Despite the unusual circumstances, this has continued to happen this year – conversations have already taken place between your child's Year 6 teachers and their new teachers at Secondary, sharing information about what your child does well, what they may need extra help with, who their friends are, and so on.

Although your child did not participate in SATs this year, academic data has been shared with Secondary colleagues so that they can ensure that when children start their new school, they will be supported in the most appropriate manner.

Whether or not your child is returning to Primary School this academic year, transition remains a focus of the work that will be set for them by their teachers over the coming weeks. There will be opportunities for them to share concerns, ask questions and discuss details about their move to Secondary School (though this may not be in person and is more likely to be through online learning platforms, blogs, video calls and so on).

One aspect of our usual transition programme is the traditional Induction Day, where Year 6 children 'move up' to their new school for the day: unfortunately, this is not going to be possible this year. Instead, Secondary Schools are going to provide a virtual video tour of their school buildings so that children can begin to familiarise themselves with their new learning environment.

Children's meetings with their form tutors are also going to move online: each Secondary School will be contacting primary schools to set up video calls to classrooms or other ways of enabling pupils to put a face a name of the staff who will be looking after them in Year 7. In Primary School, pupils will have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of their new Secondary School teachers, and to build those essential relationships so that they feel safe and secure when September comes.

If your child has Special Educational Needs or disabilities, extra meetings between teachers and pupils may be appropriate – again, your Primary School will liaise with Secondary SENDCOs to ensure that important information is shared, prior to the summer holidays.

These are just some of the opportunities that are being planned for your child before the summer. Individual Secondary Schools may contact you with further information about Transition and we know that they would welcome your questions if you needed to contact them.

We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ

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Of course, there are also some things you can do at home to support your child's transition to Secondary School.

- Talk to them about their concerns and make a note of any questions they have, so that, when the time comes, they can share them with their friends, teachers and new form tutors.
- If it is safe and in line with government guidance, practise the route your child will take to their new school (which bus they will catch, which roads they will cross, who they will travel with).
- Explore the website of their new school – what is there to look forward to, and which subjects are they excited to learn about?

As ever, please speak to your school if you have any concerns at all, and of course school will be in touch with any further details as they are arranged.

Our young people have been incredible throughout this situation; their resilience has been an inspiration. Despite the challenges the current situation presents, we are certain that your child's transition to Secondary School can be a successful one.

We will continue to support both them and yourselves as much as we possibly can.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Please #StaySafe and look after each other.

Best wishes,

Mrs J Butterworth

Headteacher

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