



## TRANSITION AT EASTINGTON

At Eastington Primary School we care for every child. We work hard to ensure all children become familiar with changes in setting and expectations quickly to enable them to feel safe and to thrive. This includes children moving to our school in Reception and later in their school life; children moving classes; and children on to secondary school.

### Pre-school to school transition

We aim for the children who join us to have the very best of starts to school. Our Reception cohort is full of happy, motivated children who are eager to share their learning. Outlined below are some of the ways we work with parents and pre-school settings to support this smooth transition:

- We have strong links with pre-school settings. Children from all pre-school settings who are allocated a place at Eastington are invited to attend pre-school sessions which run for part of the Summer Term 6 on Wednesday afternoons. These sessions are led by Eastington Playgroup staff and there is a small charge for the sessions to cover staffing costs. Take up is consistently very high by parents and feedback is exceptionally positive. During these sessions the class teacher invites new Reception children into the class to join Class One where she works with them and they hear a story together. The children become familiar with the inside and outside learning areas; the playground/trim trail/grass area; many of the children who will be in cohort and the classteacher and TA team. Occasionally a child cannot attend these session. If this is the case, they are invited to visit the school for two afternoon sessions at a different time.
- The classteacher meets with pre-school settings leaders to gather pupil information in Summer Term 6 too - this ensures continuity of provision. Individualised program for pupils with SEND are put in place if needed, including working with the SENCo or external agencies if pupils have higher needs. Children are safe. Safeguarding information is collected from pre-school settings by the DSL and action taken if needed.
- Parent links are forged through an information sharing evening in Summer Term 6 where practicalities are shared and parent questions are answered.
- A parent Information Evening on developing word skills and reading is held in Autumn Term 1 where the provision, expectation and ways to support children are shared with parents. Useful websites are shared and overview information given. Feedback is consistently and overwhelmingly positive.

- New reception pupils are supported by 'Big Friends' from Class 5 over their first year at Eastington. Activities are planned over the year for the children to work together and the older children will look to support and nurture their little friend. This helps all our children to feel safe and secure as well as have fun together.
- On joining the school, the classteacher and TA work with parents regularly to share information they know will best support the child in a wide range of social, personal and subject areas.
- Parents are invited to contribute to the learning journals of their child regularly and are encouraged to write wow awards to share information with school.

## **Transition between classes**

At Eastington we operate a split year process in order to accommodate all our children in Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5. Children in these year groups are split into two groups by age and this decides which class they will be in. All children are educated using the same year group curriculum. To ensure that all children have the same opportunities, educational trips, curriculum activities, clubs etc pupils are grouped by year group rather than by classes wherever possible.

Preparation for transition between year groups is carefully planned to occur towards the end of term 6. We support this through:

- Children spending time with their new class, getting to know teachers, teaching assistants, peers and the different classroom environment (if appropriate) for 2-3 sessions in the last couple of weeks of term. They are given information such as teacher expectations, topics to be studied, timetables, classroom layouts and locations of cloakroom pegs, drawers and resources to ensure children feel more secure with the move.
- Teacher transition meetings are held so that all relevant information is shared about each individual child before the start of the new academic year. These meetings include targets, age-related expectations/outcomes, and particular needs such as SEND, behaviour, medical, emotional and social. This enables the class teacher to begin the new school year with the information in ensure every child is supported and challenged appropriately from the outset.

## **Transition to secondary school**

The move to secondary school from primary is a significant change in a child's life. At Eastington, we strive to do all we can to ensure a smooth transition and to support children in being ready for the demands that secondary school will bring. We do this by:

- Over the year and especially during the Summer Term of Y6, expecting a higher level of independence from children – both in terms of work within lessons and personal

organisation of resources and time. This ensures readiness for the level of self-reliance needed at secondary.

- Secondary schools transition request forms are completed and returned in Summer Term. These forms are completed by the Year 6 teacher and, although varied in the information requested, they do cover academic information as well as behavioural, social, emotional and any special needs the children may have. This supports the new secondary school in providing appropriate support.
- During the Summer Term 6, teachers from the secondary schools are invited to visit Eastington to meet the children and answer any questions they may have. These teachers also meet the Year 6 teacher and any relevant information or paperwork is shared.
- Children are encouraged to attend “taster days” at their secondary schools in the July that they leave year 6. They spend the whole day at their secondary school to orient themselves with the physical layout and experience a typical secondary school timetable.

As a primary school we feed many local secondary schools such as Maidenhill, Rednock, Katherine Lady Berkeley, Stroud High School, Ribston. Marling and Pates.

**Parents need to select their preferred schools in Year 6-usually by October 31st.** Most local schools arrange open days for children and parents to find out more information and **explore their facilities in Year 5 Summer Term** (and some in Year 6 Autumn Term). Information about this can be found on their websites.

At Eastington we do not prepare children for Grammar School tests. However some parents feel a grammar school is right for their child and engage a tutor to support them with this. The grammar school test are usually undertaken in September Year 6, though some secondary schools need you to register for the test in Year 5. Our local grammar schools are: Stroud High School for Girls, Ribston Hall, Marling, Pates, Denmark Road, Sir Thomas Rich’s and The Crypt. If you are interested in grammar schools, please see their websites for further information on their application process. (We suggest you do this in Year 4 so you are fully aware of the process timeline.)

## **Joining mid-year**

Occasionally a pupil is allocated a place with us at Eastington in the middle of an academic year or joins the school after the reception intake. When this happens we support the transition through:

- Encouraging a taster morning or afternoon so the new pupil can become familiar with our physical settling and routines.

- Buddy a new pupil with one or two from the class they are joining. These children will be selected with care and will show the new pupil around the school site and ensure they are safe and happy at play/lunch times.

In our school new pupils usually establish friendships and settle in quickly. We will work closely with parents, carers and children to support this.