



## Transition guidance for Parents and Carers of Year 6 children at Canon Burrows

June 2020

Transitioning from Canon Burrows to Secondary School is a landmark step in your child's journey towards maturity and independence. Moving from Canon Burrows, where everyone knows each other, to a larger environment with more pupils, different teachers and new opportunities is an exciting time of change but it can also bring its challenges and never more so than at the moment.

We believe at Canon Burrows that it is important to prepare children carefully for these changes in order for them to have the best chance of making a smooth and confident transition, by focusing on the skillsets required and the opportunities that such a change presents. We begin to prepare the children for this transition as they move through KS2: they are encouraged to become more independent with their learning, organise their time, learn how to research, evaluate their work and identify the next steps in their learning journey.

In Year 5 and 6, children take on a variety of roles – helping with a range of tasks around school including play leading, school, eco and sports councillors, health ambassadors and a whole host of other responsibilities. As well as making a valuable contribution to school life, these roles help the children to develop commitment, organisational skills and a sense of personal responsibility that will stand them in good stead for secondary school.

We strive to ensure that the 6 or 7 years your child spends in our care ensures they are equipped to move to the next, exciting phase of their educational journey.

### Information sharing between Canon Burrows and secondary schools

In order to ensure that children have a smooth transition from Canon Burrows to their chosen secondary school and that the new teachers are fully aware of each child's strengths and capabilities, Miss.Clayton, Miss.Howard and Mrs.Thompson have fully briefed the relevant secondary schools about each child. The secondary schools are keen to know about the children's interests, hobbies and passions; we take pride in sharing their academic and extra-curricular achievements with the transition team and Senior Leadership Team.

For children with SEND, the Year 6 teachers hold additional meetings with the secondary school SENDCo and any necessary documentation for the child is completed and passed over.

### What will Canon Burrows do to help the children prepare?

This year, because of the current situation, the transition programme offered by secondary schools is going to look a little different. Transition days are yet to be confirmed by the secondary schools, however we are in contact with the transition teams who are working on possible scenarios to facilitate these; your child's chosen secondary school will be in contact with you if/when these opportunities become possible.

It is at this point in the academic year that we would begin to discuss transition and the move to secondary school in more detail with our Year 6 pupils, answering any questions they may have and preparing them for September. With this in mind, we have put together a programme of transition activities which should support your child whilst school remains open for Key Workers only.

These activities will be uploaded with the Year 6 Home Learning Document every Friday and will follow the structure of the sessions we would usually deliver in school. The transition programme aims to:

- Reassure children and prepare them for September
- Ease anxiety and worries
- Build confidence and self esteem
- Answer and address any questions the children may have

Which in turn should ensure that:

- Children are able to develop new friendships and improve their self-esteem
- Children settle into school life in a way that causes no concerns to their parents
- Children show an enthusiastic interest in school life and school work
- Children get used to their new routines and school organisation with ease and enjoyment
- Children are able to build on their learning from Primary school across the curriculum.

Each week, we will upload a transition activity on to the Year 6 Home Learning page titled

*'Transition Home Learning Programme Session 1 (or relevant week number) worksheets'*

There may be a Powerpoint or extra materials uploaded along with this.

**and** a subject specific activity titled

*'Session 1 English (or relevant subject) Things to do before you start secondary school'*

These activities will give children the opportunity to explore their thoughts and feelings about the transition to high school, provide opportunities for discussion between children and adults, celebrate their achievements, strengths and successes and think about ways they can begin to organise and prepare themselves for September.

Practical tips for children and parents/carers

- Read any advice from your child's chosen school around transportation. This may look different for children in September. Speak to your child about how transport to school might be different expected.
- Establish an open and honest relationship with the new school – if you have worries or concerns, who could you speak to about these? Your form tutor? The head of year? A sibling or older friend at the school? It might be a good idea to establish a key person that you can speak to when you need to.
- Understand that although secondary school is different to and much bigger than Canon Burrows – the school still cares for you and wants you to succeed and be happy!
- Ensure uniform is correct and appropriate including footwear and hairstyles. Any questions or issues with regard to cost of uniform – contact the secondary school.
- Become familiar with your secondary school's phone and attendance policy.
- Will you use a locker at school? Familiarise yourself with how this will work and what you might need to store in there.

- Practise packing your bag for a typical day at school – packing your bag the night before is always a good idea.
- Set up your lunch payment account (if your secondary school has one) and make sure you know how it works and what is available.
- Ensure you are familiar with your planner/diary that your secondary school give you. Check it regularly and use it to help with your organisation.
- Always stay safe online and remember everything that you learnt about E-safety at Canon Burrows. Be SMART!
- If you have medication that you take regularly or in an emergency, make sure the school has the correct documentation about the medication and your health needs.

We hope you benefit from and enjoy the transition activities.

Please do email any questions, feedback or examples of the transition work you have completed to Miss.Clayton, Miss.Howard or Mrs.Thompson at [year6homework@canonburrows.co.uk](mailto:year6homework@canonburrows.co.uk)

We receive these emails directly and we will respond to any questions or queries you have. We are here to support and help you so please do get in touch, no matter how small your question may seem.