Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

6th September 2024

'A school where children develop the passion to learn, the skills and knowledge to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society.'

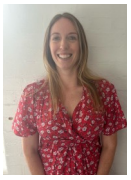
Welcome back to school!

It has been a really positive beginning to the term and we welcome all of our new families to St Mark's. The children have been getting to know their new teachers and teaching assistants and learning more about the expectations and routines within their new year groups. Many of the Key Stage Two children are in the process of applying for Monitor positions that they are interested in leading and they will find out their new roles next week.

Already teachers are making arrangement for the term ahead. Next week, class bulletins for Autumn Term 1 will be sent out to you, which will outline information about what is to be learnt during the term. In two week's time there will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher in person. Please look at your diary dates within this newsletter to find out when this and other events and activities will be taking place.

We are here to help

Again this year, we look forward to doing all we can to support our children as they begin school and return to school. Across the school this will include: counselling, art therapy, speech and language groups, English as an additional language support, 1-1 tuition, small group tuition, interventions, ECH plan provision, social skills groups, pastoral support and mentoring . This is all in addition to high quality class-based teaching and learning. We will be working very closely with our external partners which include the Lambeth's Autism Advisory Service, Educational Psychologists and Speech and Language therapists.



Key People who are available to support you this term are:

Mr Ingram—Head teacher

Ms Nickola Roye— Acting Deputy Headteacher & SENCO

Ms Catherine Smith Assistant Head for Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Mrs Natasha Guy—Home liaison officer and working with parents and families

Mr Emmanuel Okuromade—Sports Coach and Pastoral Support

We will make direct contact with families next week to discuss plans and support.

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Hard Work

BIBLE VERSE

"Never be lazy but serve the Lord enthusiastically."

Romans 12:11

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

SCHOOL VALUES & POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SYSTEMS

ST MARK'S
Church of England Primary School

Chart

C – Compassion

H – Hard Work

A – Accountability

R – Respect

T – Trust

Being Joyful and Positive

Accountability and Leadership

Self-Control and Collaboration

Kindness and Compassion

Effort and Hardwork

What happens if you make the wrong choice? If you don't' follow the class or school rules?

White= a warning (although a verbal warning may have been give before this.)

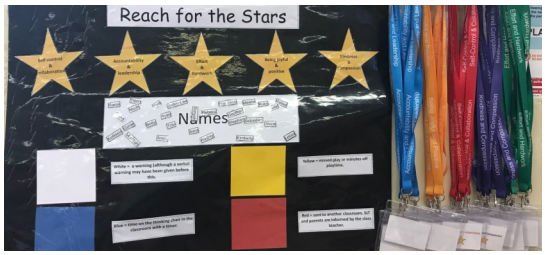
Blue = time on the thinking chair in the classroom with a timer.

Yellow = missed play or minutes of playtime.

Red = sent to another class-room. SLT and parents are in-formed by the class teacher.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARDS

Lanyards



Pebble Jar

Badges

15 Lanyards = Bronze Badge

30 Lanyards = Silver Badge

50 Lanyards = Gold Badges

School Uniform

- Black school shoes. Thank you for your efforts with this. Remember no trainers
- A blue shirt or polo shirt. We are happy if children purchase these from a store rather than purchase the one with the school logo, as it works out far cheaper. Make sure it is the correct colour
- A grey skirt or grey trousers
- A school sweatshirt or cardigan
- A book bag / A school bag
- PE kit is white t-shirt or polo shirt and plain blue shorts or jogging bottoms. Please avoid branded items and cycling shorts. PE kit should only be worn on PE days
- Please can children not wear jewellery to school, apart from stud ear-rings for health and safety purposes
- Hair bands must be simple and preferably in the school colours. Avoid hair accessories—large, colourful bows etc.
- NO SMART WATCHES ARE TO BE WORN TO SCHOOL PLEASE

School Days

Breakfast club
8.00 am to 8.50 am

After School clubs
3.30 pm to 4.25 pm

School Starts / End:

School gates open: 8:45 am

EYFS & KS1: 8:55am - 3:20pm (Monday to Friday) KS 1 Parents are to remain with children until the bell sounds

KS2 : 8:55 - 3:25 pm (Monday to Friday) Please be on time!

Health & Safety requirement:

When dropping off and collecting your child, please do not stop at any time by the entrance gates, keep moving, as it is blocking the way to others and it is against H&S, which we all have to adhere to.

Absences & Sickness:

If your child is unwell, please notify the school via phone or email and state the reason for the child's absence.

After School Clubs Autumn term 2024

Clubs are 3.30pm-4.25pm, including Taekwon-Do on Wednesdays **3.30pm-4.25pm**

Clubs will be **only £3.00**** per session! (£33.00 per term) ****First 2 Clubs half price for Pupil Premium**

Children **MUST** wear **PE kits** for **all** sport activities.

Payment and bookings on ParentPay on a first-come first-serve basis

11 weeks of clubs

Clubs will START the week commencing **Monday 23rd September 2024**

Last week of clubs will be the week ending Friday 13th December 2024

DAY & CLUB	AVAILABLE TO YEARS	Places Available	Club Cost
MONDAY			
BASKETBALL	Years 4 – 6	20	**PE KIT** £33.00
COOKING	Years 1 - 3	12	£33.00
TUESDAY			
DODGEBALL	Years 3 – 6	20	**PE KIT** £33.00
ARTS & CRAFTS	Years 1 - 6	18	£33.00
WEDNESDAY			
MULTISPORTS	Years 1 – 3	20	**PE KIT** £33.00
*TAEKWONDO (KS1 & KS2 places available)	**3:30pm – 4.25pm**	**PLEASE BOOK DIRECTLY WITH AMANDA ON 07733 747 879 ajdelaney@me.com**	
THURSDAY			
CHESS	Years 3-6	20	£33.00
GYMNASTICS	Years 1-3	18	**PE KIT** £33.00
FRIDAY			
FOOTBALL	Years 4 – 6	20	**PE KIT** £33.00
HOMEWORK	Years 2 – 6	15	£33.00

Payments for clubs are NON – TRANSFERABLE or REFUNDABLE:

- **If your child changes his/her mind.**
- **If clubs are CANCELLED due to staff absence.**

NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE AS ALL CLUBS ARE ALREADY SUBSIDISED

DUE TO DEMAND, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY OF CLUBS.

If there is not enough demand for certain clubs, we may not be able to run them this term.

St Mark's C of E Primary School Term Dates for Term 1

Date	Event	Details
Wednesday 4th September 2023	Children return to school R -Yr 6	
Thursday 5th September 2024	St Mark's children from Last year's Nursery begin in Reception	
Thursday 5th September 2024	Literacy Lab resumes	
Friday 6th September 2024	New children begin in Reception	
Monday 9th September 2024	A staggered start in Nursery Class	
Tuesday 10th September 2023	Year 6 Willow Class visiting Pizza Express	9.20am
Thursday 12th September 2024	Year 3 and 4 Music Lessons resume	Recorder
Thursday 12th September 2024	Chess resumes	Year 4
Friday 13th September 2024	Meet the teacher meeting for Reception parents 3.00-3.20	In the school hall
Monday 16th September 2024	Meet the teacher meeting for Year 1 parents 3.00 – 3.20	In the school hall
Monday 16th September 2024	Sycamore Class visiting CYE Sailing Centre in Chichester	Arrive at school by 7.00am
Tuesday 17th September 2024	Sycamore Class return from CYE Sailing Centre in Chichester	Return by 4.30-5.00pm tbc
Tuesday 17th September 2024	Year 6 Willow Class begin to attend Kia Oval for Computing and Cricket Coaching	From 1.15pm PE kit needed
Tuesday 17th September 2024	Year 6 Reading Lab begins – initial meeting	
Tuesday 17th September 2024	Meet the teacher meetings Year 2 parents 9.00-9.20 Year 3 parents 3.00 – 3.20	In the school hall
Wednesday 18th September 2024	Meet the teacher meetings Year 4 parents 9.00-9.20 Nursery parents 3.00 – 3.20	In the school hall
Wednesday 18th September 2024	Year 5 and 6 Music Lessons resume	Cello and Clarinet
Thursday 19th September 2024	Repeat Secondary Transfer Meeting for Parents of children in Year 5 and 6 at 9.20am following Meet the teacher meeting at 9am	
Thursday 19th September 2024	Year 6 Reading Lab begins	
Thursday 19th September 2024	Meet the teacher meetings Year 6 9.00-9.20 Year 5 3.00 – 3.20	In the school hall
Thursday 19th September 2024	ParentPay Workshop	9.00 am
Monday 23rd September 2024	Swimming begins with Year 4 Olive Class	See separate details
Monday 23rd September 2024	After School Clubs start	Pay in advance via ParentPay

St Mark's C of E Primary School Term Dates for Term 1 (part 2)

Date	Event	Details
Tuesday 24th September 2024	Coffee and Cake Welcome Morning	9.00 am – School Hall Led by Natasha
Tuesday 24th September 2024	Sycamore Class start at the Kia Oval for weekly cricket coaching and computing	
Friday 27th September 2024	Year 2 Oak Class involved in Fire of London workshops 9-12pm	
w/c 30 th September 2024	Harvest Festival Week	Collection of food to donate to local food banks
Wednesday 2nd October 2024	Action Tutoring for Year 6 begins	8.30am
Monday 7th October 2024	Autumn walk Rec	9.15 am
Friday 11th October 2024	Year 3 Olive Class Roman Banquet	Dress as Romans for the day
Monday 14th October 2024	Focus Week Intro University YR 6 including trips	9.30 – 2.30 all week
Wednesday 23rd October & Thursday 24th October	Parents' Evening	School hall 3.00 pm to 5.30 pm Electronic sign up
Thursday 24th October 2024	Parent and Staff Football	9.00 am at the school gate
Friday 25th October 2024	Culture Day Culture Day Children to wear cultural clothing or the national flag colours.	After school event involving food and music from around the world
w/c 28th October – 1st November 2024	Half Term	
Monday 4th November 2024	Term 2 Begins	

Join the St. Mark's Family
A very limited number of
Nursery Spaces available
September 2024

If you are interested in a free, full-time Nursery Class place or to find out more about the school, please contact us to arrange an informal tour of the school.

St Mark's C of E Primary School is located on the Oval/Kennington borders (just behind the Oval cricket ground).

We are a friendly, family-based school that provides our pupils with a rigorous, yet inspirational, all-round education. We aim to challenge and engage all pupils during their learning journeys at St Mark's and prepare them for their lives beyond the school.

Our size, alongside our strong Christian ethos, also enables us to place an equal emphasis on nurturing each individual child's growth, development and character.

Phone: 020 7735 1467
Email: admin@st-markscofe.lambeth.sch.uk
Web: www.stmarkscofeprimarylambeth.co.uk

Office Notices

School Dinners

ISS Education are our catering provider and will be providing our school dinners

All primary school children who attend state schools
from Reception to Year 6 in London receive free school meals for the full academic year.
Please notify the school if your child will have packed lunch instead of school dinners.

NURSERY CHILDREN ARE NOT ENTITLED TO FSM will have to pay for their meal

School Meals cost will remain £3.00 per day or £15.00 per week.

Please pay on ParentPay in advance to keep your dinner account in credit and prevent reminders

We actively encourage all families who think they are eligible to apply, as this will grant additional support within school through the Pupil Premium funding. To apply please click here and return the completed form to the office or obtain a form from the office. Families on a low income or in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to Pupil premium.

If your circumstances have changes, please communicate to the office.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available from 8am every day for £3.00 per child per day (15.00 per week).

Payments via ParentPay.
Please contact the office for an application form or click here.

After school clubs will start w/c Monday 23rd September.

See page 5 and Check your emails for Full information

Up To Date Pupil Records

In order to adhere to our safeguarding duty, please update your child's details on our Pupil Records Form
https://forms.gle/KHgtwVX5momaxEn16
We request for this form to be completed at the start of each year to ensure we have your latest details on file to contact you for regular and emergency situations. We also require your child's updated medical details and the details of the adults you permit to collect your child/ren so we can make sure they only leave with a person identified by you.

Greenhouse Schools
School news for parents
Green Schools Online

ParentPay
COUNT ON US

PARENT WORKSHOP

A ParentPay & School App workshop will be provided to parents.
MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
9:00 TO 9.30 AM .
If you do not have your ParentPay activation codes, please contact school office.

NOTICES

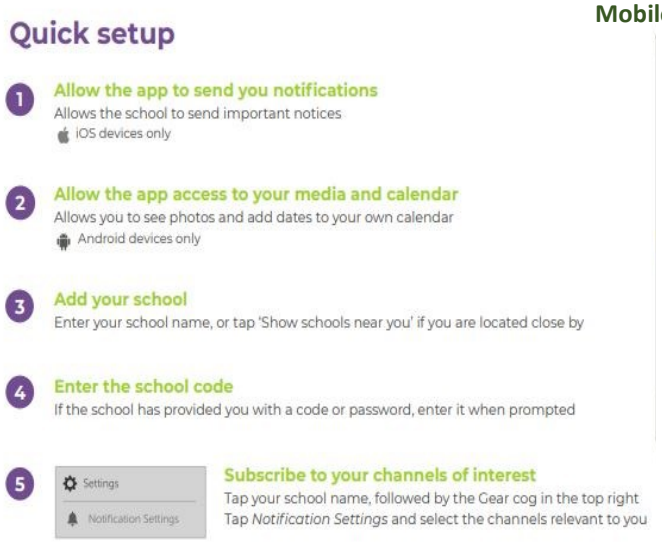
ST MARK'S MOBILE APP

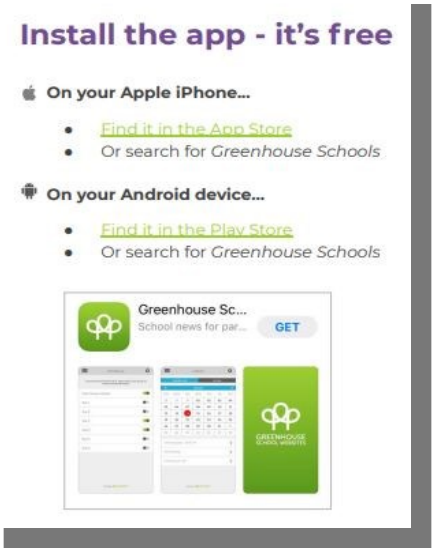
We hope this will enable facilitate communication with Parents.

Among the great futures of the Mobile App:

- **To easily report child's absence**
- **To have direct access to letters**
- **To receive push notifications**
- **Key information, e.g. term dates, galleries, newsletters, calendar and contact**

You can download it directly from our school website – Mobile App—Code 1467

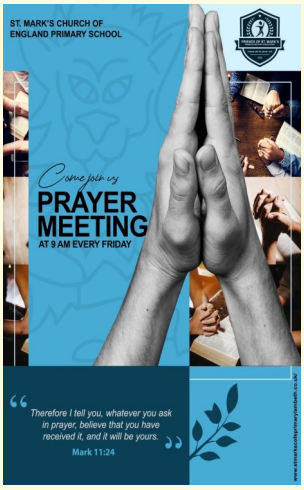




OVAL RESIDENT COMPLAINT—

Since Lambeth council implemented the time restrictions to roads around the Oval area, specifically outside your school, parents are now using Oval way to drop off and collect their children,
This morning there were 7 cars parked in the road whilst they take the children into school. Consequently residents on Oval way are unable to access the road, parking spaces and drives. As it's a one lane road the amount of cars all at once causes a jam and people use the pavement to drive on to get around. This isn't safe as the other parents and children as both your school and Lilian Baylis use the pavement too.

Dear Car Drivers, PLEASE DRIVE AND PARK RESPONSIBLY IN THE LOCAL AREA TO AVOID. Thank you Mr Ingram

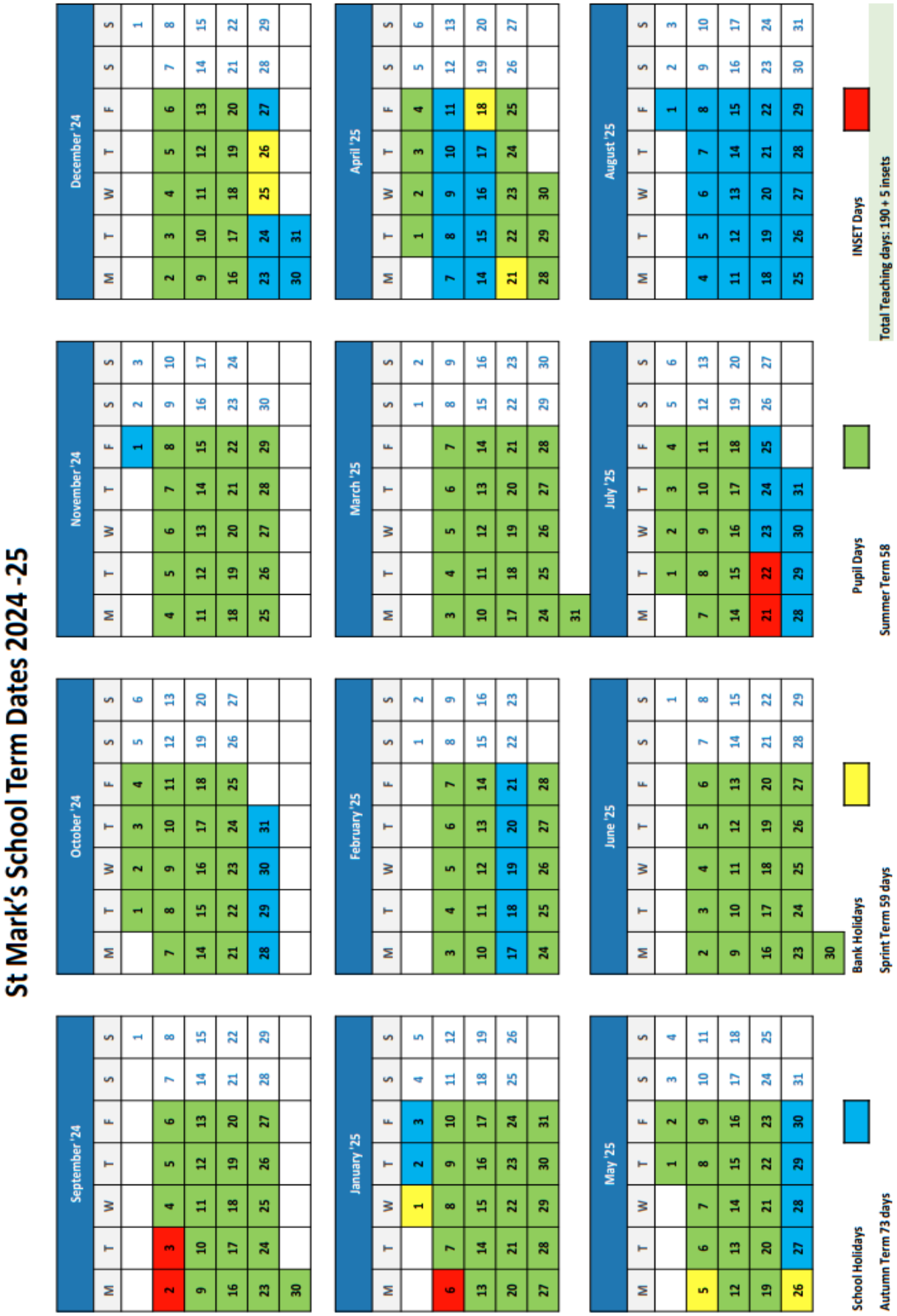


Prayer Requests & Prayer Meeting

If you have a prayer request, post it in our prayer box on the table in the reception area or come along to pray with others **every Friday morning after drop-off**.

Term Dates for 2024-25

Please find the term dates for the academic year. Please avoid taking holidays during term time as it can impact on children's progress.



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.

2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.

3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.

4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.

5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.

6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.

7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.

8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.

9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.

10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.

Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMHL coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-going-back-to-school

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