



Highcliffe Headlines

Moving Up and Moving On—A Transition Special

Courage Compassion Respect

Welcome to a Special Edition of the Headlines

In this edition of our Headlines we aim to give parents a better understanding of the ways in which we prepare our children for their next step. We understand that this time of change can be an anxious one for parents and for some children, too.

This edition aims to explain what we do and how we do it. If after reading this newsletter, you would like to talk to us about your child's needs please do not hesitate to get in touch. As we approach transition, if you need to make us aware of something relevant that you haven't already mentioned please do this by Friday 19th June by speaking with your child's teacher.

Pastoral Power

Our team of ELSAs, Miss Mills, Mrs Welsby and Mrs Durham, are mobilised in summer 2 to begin supporting children who need extra support to cope with their next step. From treasure hunts and special messages, we find every excuse to visit the children's new classroom, year group, teacher and teaching assistant to get them used to the new people and environment.

Key Stage 1-Key Stage 2 Leaflet

Parents of children currently in year 2 and moving into year 3 will receive a leaflet which outlines the main changes to expect in terms of dropping off, picking up, snack time and Free School Meals.

Be My Buddy

Children are our most knowledgeable members of the community. They know exactly what it is like to be in their year group. We will be buddying up classes from the year above so that the children have a chance to share their experiences and hear about life in the next year group. They will show their books—hopefully busting the myth that the learning is harder!

Moving Up Booklet

Sometimes children need something to help them through the summer break. Our staff will prepare social stories for these children which focus on both new things as well as things which, reassuringly, will stay the same when they come back to school. Parents have reported that these have been really helpful in the past. If you would like one of these you will be able to request a copy nearer to summer break.

See Me, Hear Me, Know Me

Teachers will see their new children in their current classroom. If teachers have seen what they can do now and how they are supported to achieve well, they can get their expectations right in September. This will also include time for teachers to read a story to their new class.

Pleased to Meet You

Our teachers will be writing and sending a short letter to their new class, sharing a little bit about their hobbies and interests and what they are looking forward to about the year ahead. We will include some photos of the year team, including TAs so you can look at this over the summer break.

Mixing It Up—Finding the Best Place to Learn

Each year, we carefully reorganise our classes (apart from YR–Y1 and Y2–3) to create environments where all children can thrive. Decisions are based on who they will learn best with, alongside consideration of SEND, progress, attainment, and our strong knowledge of each child, both current and historic. Mixing classes also supports children in building resilience, independence and wider friendships. While friendships remain important and continue beyond the classroom, our priority is effective learning in school. Teachers invest significant time in this process, and we ask parents to trust our professional judgement. Class lists will be shared a few days before moving up day on 8th July; we appreciate your understanding that individual requests cannot be accommodated.

Meet the New Teacher

On 8th July the children will spend the morning in their new classroom with their new teacher. Teachers always plan some fun “getting to know you” and team building activities for the children and they aim to make this morning as relaxed as possible.

On the same day, parents are invited to see their child's new classroom and meet their new teacher between 3.30pm and 4.00pm. Your child should be able to take you there!

Teacher to Teacher Talk

Our teachers know their current classes really well. They understand each individual child's needs, barriers to learning and motivations. We give time for teachers to share this information with the receiving teacher. These meetings are carefully planned and monitored by phase leaders to ensure that the right information is shared. This would include any medical needs and how to manage them, SEND provision and/or language needs as well as their strengths and areas where they have excelled this year.

Our school uses digital tracking systems which teachers can access to see what support has been provided for children and also their progress and attainment across the whole curriculum.