



## Transition into Reception/Year One

The majority of children starting reception will have missed the last part of their Nursery education due to Coronavirus. This will be the first time they would have been apart from their key person for such prolonged period. Here are some tips to try and help a smooth transition:

- ✓ Complete a home visit. It is important for you to see where the children have spent their time.
- ✓ Contact their previous Nursery/Childminder to gain important knowledge about the child and the family and any needs they have.
- ✓ Write a welcome letter to families and children with pictures of the staff and classroom telling them about all the fun activities and routines. This could also be a video.
- ✓ Have a staggered start, a few children in at a time. Take it even more slowly than you normally do.
- ✓ View the whole of the first term as a settling in period. Focus on fun, getting to know the children and helping them to feel secure and confident in their new environment.
- ✓ Have a key person for each child.
- ✓ Consider allowing children to have transition objects to begin with.
- ✓ Have regular opportunities to be available to talk to parents/carers.
- ✓ Is your EYFS learning environment carefully planned to encourage children to follow their own interests and fascinations?

- ✓ **Is your planning flexible enough to reflect the needs of your children?**
- ✓ **At each transition are there clear examples of continuity as well as progression?**
- ✓ **Is the learning environment in Reception and Year One carefully planned to meet the needs of children who will have missed a considerable part of their Nursery and Reception years?**
- ✓ **Reflecting on all these issues will be crucial for your practice. These are unprecedented times: we can't assume that doing what we have always done will be enough.**
- ✓ **Reception staff can spend time helping children settle into Year One at the beginning of term.**
- ✓ **Have fun!**