

How can you get your child ready to get the most out of secondary school?

Preparing to be independent

While there is a lot of support available for new students at Huish, the aim will be for your child to develop as an independent learner. Below are some of the key skills they will need and some suggestions for methods of practice:

Bringing the right equipment on the right day

Make sure your child is confident at following a timetable – they will be given an example timetable when I visit the schools – but you could practise with any example. Remind them that we have a two week timetable so that there will be different lessons in week one and two.

You can help by getting them used to packing their own bag the night before school – get them to take note of when they need PE kits and other equipment for primary and start handing over responsibility to them.

Some children (especially those with dyspraxic tendencies) will find the pace of lesson change quite a challenge. Get them to practise unpacking and packing their pencil cases quickly – get them to think about where they will place these on the desk in advance. Getting this right will minimise stress for your child and help to prevent lost equipment.

Thinking about homework

Homework should not take over yours or your child's life. The amount of work will vary but a reasonable guide would be thirty to forty five minutes four times a week. It's worth thinking in advance about when and where homework will be done – especially if your child is moving between houses during the week.

Use primary homework to help your child get into good study habits. Provide a homework time and space now so that a clear routine is already established.

Make sure that your child knows that, in secondary school, they, not you, are responsible for making sure homework is done on time.

Getting ready throughout year 6

There is a full transition programme and there will be plenty of time for your children to ask questions about secondary school. However, some might have very individual questions. Encourage your child to air those questions – I am happy to answer any of them via email ERobinson@educ.somerset.gov.uk.

Over the Summer

It is really important that your child enjoys the holidays. They've worked hard for the Sats and deserve their well earned rest. However, there are some things that you could encourage to keep their brains ticking over:

- Reading – visit the local library – get involved with their Summer reading programmes. Remember non-fiction counts as reading as well.
- Holiday journals – encourage them to write a short diary entry
- Cooking – a perfect opportunity to keep their Maths skills going converting ingredients

The week before

Make sure that your child is involved in the process of preparing for school – preparing his/her pencil case – many pens, pencils, coloured pencils, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener.

Remember to offer reassurance. It will take a while to get used to. They will be very tired (and possibly emotional) for the first couple of weeks but it will get easier. Give it time; if they are not feeling more settled after a few weeks then contact us.