Dear Parent/Carer

As part of our continued work in supporting good early years practice we have asked your child’s nursery or childminder to take part in supporting your child’s transition to Primary School.

Childminders and nurseries already have plans in place to support your child with transition but this year we are aiming to link more closely with schools to ensure schools are ready to meet the needs of your child and that transition goes as smoothly as possible.

We appreciate that this year is going to be a very different year in relation to transition and that your child’s nursery or childminder may not be able to implement normal transition activities and arrangements.

We have asked nurseries and childminders to complete a ‘Starting School Summary’ for each child in their care which will be shared with the child’s new primary school. We want all early years’ settings to complete this form to support children to have the most positive transition in these unusual and challenging times.

If your child has special educational needs we ask that the nursery or childminder complete a ‘transition passport’ in addition to the starting school summary. The passport contains more detailed information about your child’s likes and dislikes and about what help they might need.

***Why is it important for us all to share information about your child’s needs with their new school?***

It is important because you as parents and carers have a wealth of knowledge and understanding about your child’s learning and development particularly their strengths and difficulties. Research has shown that the support you offer your child has a direct impact on how well they do in school.

* It helps to understand what your child’s skills and interests are, what they can do and what they are still working on.
* It helps the school prepare for times that might cause upset and anxiety i.e. when you drop them off at school.
* It helps the school to talk to you about transition and preparing for change so that they can be planned for appropriately. It helps the school to plan and put into place any strategies before your child arrives.

Every child is unique and requires personalised support to reach their full potential. By allowing your Early Years setting to share information with your child’s new teacher you are providing the very best opportunity for your child’s needs to be met as they start this new and exciting phase in their life.

It is important that you as parents and carers know that disclosing your child’s needs will not impact on them being allocated a place at a Lewisham school.

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