

# Transition Time Moving to Year R



## Starting Year R (Early Years Foundation Stage, Reception)

Starting school is a big step for parents as well as children. Not only is your child embarking on their first taste of formal education, but they are also going to a new location which may involve an unfamiliar journey. This leaflet is designed to lead you through the process of planning your new journey to school and, as much as is possible, keeping it active, safe, and sustainable.

Did you know that 1 in 5 cars on the road during morning rush hour is on the school run?



The [My Journey Travel Planning Team](#) at Hampshire County Council (HCC) is here to support you, as well as encourage you to travel actively whenever possible. Active travel is not only good for the environment, but it is also vital for the health and wellbeing of your family. There's lots of information and ideas on the following pages to support you in making your travel choices, or you can visit the [My Journey Transition Time](#) and [My Journey Parent](#) pages.



## Getting to know the basics

Once you have your child's school place confirmed, find out key information such as:

- **School start and finish times,**
- **Breakfast and after school club timings and availability,**
- **Travel to school policies / webpage,** many schools have a 'Travel to school' policy and/or webpage with information about how the school would like families to travel to and from the site. This may include information about **Park and Stride sites or 5-Minute Walking Bubbles** (there is more information on this later).
- **Pedestrian entrances,** check that you are aware of where the pedestrian entrances are and whether you should be using a particular one (this may depend on your child's age).
- **Cycle and scooter storage,** if you wish your child to scoot, balance bike or cycle to school, ensure you know the availability and location of scooter and cycle parking, and whether there are any policies in place or restrictions on who is allowed to use this.
- **HCC Home to School Transport,** is available to eligible pupils. Please look [here](#) for more information.  
*Please note: this service is provided and organised by the Education and Learning team, and not by the Travel Planning team.*

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## Transition Time Pirate Film Fun



The true story of “The Gentleman Pirate”, Captain Stede Bonnet (he actually paid for his pirate ships rather than stealing them!), is designed to inspire you to make maps of your new journey to school. Follow [this link](#) to watch our original, 8-minute long, humorous film by our fantastic friends at [Histrionics](#), presented in four short sections so you can pause the film easily if you wish. Enjoy, me hearties!



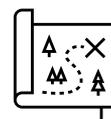
1. Introduction



2. Pirate training



3. Trouble Ahoy!



4. Map your journey

See [www.myjourneyhampshire.com/films](http://www.myjourneyhampshire.com/films) for the full range of My Journey active travel films.

## Follow-up activities

### 1. Mapping investigation



With the help of your parent or carer, look up your new school on a local map or using the [My Journey mapping tool](#) (uses Google Maps) or [OpenStreetMap](#) on a computer. Look at how far it is to your new school and see if you can plan a quiet route there, away from busy roads and with safe crossing points. Remember that the quickest route may not always be the best route in terms of traffic, pollution and enjoyability.

If using a computer, use the yellow man icon on Google Maps to browse street view images. This is really helpful if you don't know your route well, as you can spot any hazards before you try out your route for real. Both packages enable you to choose your form of transport, including walking, wheeling and cycling. In OpenStreetMap, use the right click on your mouse. In Google Maps, use the blue and white directions icon. You may be offered alternative routes, so look for the quieter option away from the danger of traffic and with better air quality. If the route is a suitable distance, consider whether you could walk, wheel, scoot or cycle to school at least on some days.

### 2. Pirate map making

Once you've decided the best option for your new route to school, create your own pirate map (you may need some help from a parent or carer). If you've never drawn a map before, there are some good ideas to practice on the [Teaching Ideas](#) website.



Mark on your house and your new school, and then draw the roads or footpaths you need to use in between the two. Can you add some icons to note anything exciting to be found on the route such as a friend's house or a playground? What about any hazards to avoid like a busy road or narrow pavement? The more detail you add, the better your map will be.

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### 3. Pirate practice makes perfect

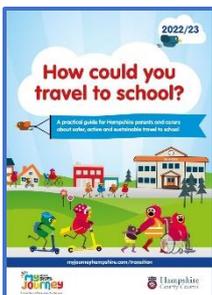
Once you are happy with your map, get into your best pirate outfit and go and test it out with someone in your household (don't forget that, on school days, you will need to wear your school uniform!). Why not try out more than one route to see if you have a preference? Is one better for walking and one better for cycling? Check that the route is well lit so you will be seen on darker evenings. Do you need to make any changes to your map having tried it out? Did you spot anything of interest along the way that you could add to it? Did you manage to find the treasure?

Please do share your pirate adventures with us tagging **#KeepActiveHants**



## Other Transition Resources

### Online travel choices guide



"[How could you travel to school?](#)", a booklet updated annually, provides parents with the information and tools they need to find out the options available when their children start school, even if it's choosing an alternative to the car once or twice a week. Your new school will be providing all new starters with a copy, but please do read through the on-line version in advance to support your travel planning.

We would encourage you to travel actively to school – by walking, wheeling, scooting or biking - as often as possible. If it is raining, be ready with waterproofs and have a splashingly good time on the way to school. However, we do understand that, for some families, logistics mean that at least some of the journey needs to be completed by car. If this is the case for your family, please consider doing one of the following:

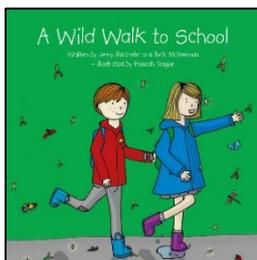
- **Park and Stride/5-Minute Walking Bubble:** if you must drive to school, please find a suitable site/area so you can park away from the school entrance and walk the last 5-10 minutes. This will really help. Some schools have their own Park and Stride maps highlighting local car parking areas where they have agreements for parents to park during the school run times, such as pub or supermarket car parks, recreation grounds etc. Some schools may share a 5-Minute Waking Bubble Map showing areas with plenty of on-street parking. Please [Parkwise](#) and always be respectful of local residents.



- To speed up the walk from the car to school, why not bring your child's scooter and **Scoot from the Boot?**
- **Park on my Drive** – know anyone else attending your school who lives nearby and has space on their drive which you could borrow twice a day? Why not ask if you can park on their drive and walk in from there? It makes a fantastically sociable start to the day.

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## Educational resources

There is a range of [Susie the Childminder](#) books available on-line which help to prepare children for emergency situations in the home and community; many have follow-up activities. In particular, we would recommend [Journey to School](#) and [Travelling Back in Time to School](#).

There are lots of [Air Quality resources](#) available to download and on-line versions of our Air Quality books, [A wild walk to school](#) (KS1) and [A Right Royal Adventure](#) (KS2). For parents, there's an [air pollution quiz](#) that you might like to try out too.

## Information on safe, active travel

Walk, wheel, scoot, balance bike or cycle? We have lots of information to support all forms of active travel on the [My Journey](#) website. Don't forget to check out our [scooting](#) and [cycling skills](#) pages to keep your children safe, savvy and to help ditch those stabilisers.



## Walking for your wellbeing's never been such fun

See our [wellbeing pages](#) for the latest ideas on keeping active and healthy, in body and mind. We have lots of ideas to make your time outside more interesting and fun such as our [Spring into Action](#) toolkit and our [Primary Wellbeing](#) fliers.

## Further information can be found here:

- **HCC Pedestrian skills training**, if your school is not currently offering this for Y2 pupils, why not send them [this link](#) or get involved as a volunteer? There's also lots of information on the correct use of [car seats](#) too
- **Living Streets**, our walking partner, have a great [family walk to school kit](#)
- **Sustrans**, our cycling partner, have some [great tips](#) on walking, as well as cycling, with young children as well as specific information on an [active school run](#). They also have an [interesting blog](#) on the benefits of cycling for children and families
- **Ready Set Ride** has a [great website](#) (and app) to support parents in teaching their children to ride a bike
- **Free Resources for Early Years** [active lifestyle resources](#) at [Balanceability.com](#)
- **The Department of Transport's Think!** website has some excellent resources for 3–6-year-olds including 'Be bright, be seen' activities
- **Road safety charity Brake** has [free Zebras road safety resources](#) as well as '[Beep! Beep! Days](#)' and lots of advice for [parents](#)
- If you have any railway lines to cross on the way to school, you may be interested in these primary [safety resources](#) from **Network Rail**.



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