



Practical tips for parents

The move to secondary school can come as a shock to both parents and children. You may feel your child isn't ready to take the responsibility for what is probably a longer journey to school, perhaps using public transport. They will usually have more books and equipment to carry around and may find it difficult to stay organised. At Wyvern, your child will be expected to take greater responsibility for their own organisation. You can help to encourage this at home with the following tips:

Encourage your child to get organised for school the evening before. This can save them (and you!) a lot of undue stress in the morning. Remind them to check their timetable for the following day, pack their bag and lay out their uniform if necessary.

Try and resist the temptation to do everything. Your child needs to learn to manage their time efficiently and they won't do it if you get everything ready for them.

At this age, children start to want more privacy when they're getting ready. Consider organising a schedule for the bathroom in the mornings so no-one is made late by waiting.

Your child will probably have several homework tasks to complete each night, and your child will record this in their log book. Make a note to yourself to read and sign the log book once a week to make sure your child is keeping up with their homework and encourage them to do their homework on the night it is set if they can.



Have a calendar on display at home/ or use 'post it's' by the front door clearly marked with different equipment needed for different days (sports kit, music instruments, projects etc.) Encourage the habit of looking at the calendar the night before and organising schoolbags there and then.



If your child is getting to school on public transport for the first time, find out if any friends live nearby so they can travel together. Try to have a practice run over the school summer holidays so your child feels more confident and has an opportunity to talk to you about any worries they may have with this.

Use every opportunity to keep in contact with the school - this may be more difficult now that classes are bigger and your child has many different subject teachers. However, Wyvern has a comprehensive website and teachers can be emailed questions/queries and will ensure they respond to you. All the year groups have pastoral assistants who can be contacted if you have any welfare/family concerns that you want to inform the school about. Be sure to check the website regularly for information updates and news.



www.wyvern.hants.sch.uk

Once your child has started school, make time to talk and listen to your child each day to check how things are going. Just giving attention in this way can help your child feel supported and more confident. This maybe something you do over meal times and try to keep this positive by asking about what the best thing that happened in school today. However, resist the temptation to ask too many questions, especially when a child first gets home from school and is likely to be tired, hungry and short-tempered from coping with many new people and things.

Useful articles and websites:

<http://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/secondary/learning-school/starting-secondary-school/>

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/preparing-your-child-secondary-school>

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2010/aug/31/secondary-school-tips-parents>

<http://www.parenting.co.uk/education/starting-school-problems.cfm>