

Year 5 Transition 2020: Frequently Asked Questions:



We are really looking forward to welcoming you to our school; however, due to the pandemic we will not be having a Transition Day for you to all meet your teachers and your new classmates, or to get used to the school building and outdoor spaces. So we have spoken to our current Y5 pupils and asked them about the things they felt a little bit worried about before they started at Alvechurch Middle so that we can hopefully put your minds to rest. There really is nothing to worry about; it will be an exciting new start on your school journey, meeting new people and learning new things. All the staff are ready to welcome you as are our existing pupils who you will find are very friendly and helpful.

Mrs Rancins (Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguard Lead)



Headteacher Mr Snell



Deputy Head Mrs Rancins



Assistant Head Mr Hipkiss

1. What are the teachers called in Year 5?

There are four classes in Year 5. Your Head of year is called Miss Faulkner - she is also a Y5 teacher. Miss Burford works very closely with Miss Faulkner and she leads KS2 Maths. Miss Burford shares her class with Mr Sargeant. Mrs Curry is the other Y5 teacher. You will mainly be based in four classrooms close to one another in the Year 5 area.

Miss Faulkner and Miss Burford have already had conversation about all of you with your current Y4 teachers so they have begun to know little bits about you already!



Miss Faulkner



Miss Burford



Mr Sargeant



Mrs Curry

2. Where will I go on the first day and will I have help getting around?

On the first day myself and Mr Snell the Headteacher will greet you on the main pedestrian gate and lead you (as long as it's not raining lots) to the MUGA (the MultiUse-Games-Area) where all of our new year 5 and their teachers and TAs will gather together. If it is raining we will do this in the hall.

From here you will go with your teacher to your new classroom. On that first day your teacher will take your class on a tour of the school so that you can begin to familiarise yourself with the layout of our school. For the first day you will be class based getting to know one another as well as the routines. After the first day you will have some lessons in other classrooms -this will be a big change for most of you. Middle School is obviously bigger than First School; but there are lots of people to help you find your way. For the first week, your teachers and TAs will walk you to your next lesson so please don't worry about getting lost. You will soon get to know where everything is.

3. Will I get into trouble/get a detention if I get lost or I am late for a lesson?

Of course not! There is lots of help to get you around the school and we completely understand that it might take a little while for you to get used to moving rooms.

4. Do we stay in our form groups for all lessons or do we switch over?

The answer to question 2 helps here. We are lucky that we have specialised classrooms like the Food Tech Room, the DT Room, the Art Room, the Music Room, the computer rooms and the Science Labs; so you will be moving around to be able to use these rooms.

5. Will the 'bigger children' be outside with us at break or lunchtime?

They may look big and scary but remember all of our existing pupils have been in your shoes and understand how you may be feeling nervous! We are lucky that we have such friendly, helpful pupils and I know they will look out for you. For the first week or so Year 5 will go to break and lunch first so that you can get used to the routines like where you have to go and how you need to line up. At breaktime everyone is outside together with a member of the Senior Leadership Team and a team of teachers who are on duty. At lunchtime KS2 and KS3 have different lunchtimes. So Y5 will be outside with Y6 along with a member of SLT and our lunchtime supervisors. So there are lots of adults to keep you safe.

6. When will I be given my locker?

You will be given your locker on the first couple of days. These will be located close to your form room. Although we say lockers and lots of you will be excited to maybe put photos up on the inside doors etc these are simply places to keep your things, they do not actually 'lock' so there is no key to lose!

7. What stationery do I need to bring?

No surprises here I don't think. Pen (black or blue ink) and a spare. Some pencils and a rubber and sharpener. A 30cm ruler is useful, as are coloured pencils and a protractor. Please make sure that all your stationery is named. It's easier to find it's way back to you if it is labelled! (There is also a stationary list in the Y5 Welcome Pack).

8. What are the house colours? Which house am I in?

We have four Houses, which are actually named after four vicars from Alvechurch a long time ago! They are:

Wattes: Blue

Tonym: Yellow

Hollington: Green

Dewytche: Red

If you have brothers or sisters already at our school you will automatically be placed in the same house. You will find out your house on your first day with us. The PE kit this year is the same for everyone so you won't need to know your house colours for your parents/carers to be able to buy this for you.

9. What is the food like?

It is a shame that with the situation at the moment you probably won't get to sample the school menu before you start with us. Transition Day would have been the perfect chance to do this! Lots of our pupils enjoy a school dinner at lunchtime. There is a wide range of choice with three options every day plus a vegetarian and sandwich option. You can also purchase drinks from the school canteen if you bring your own packed lunch. Roast dinners, chicken wraps, fish and chips, pasta dishes...there is always something to tempt your taste buds. If you have food allergies, don't worry, these can also be catered for.

10. Will I still be able to get food even if my account has no money?

Your parents/carers 'load' your lunch account for you online. You do not bring money into school. It is important that there is enough money in your lunch account to pay for food; you can help by reminding your parents/carers if your account is running low. However, we would not see anybody go hungry! Also at the start of term, it takes a couple of weeks for systems to sync. You will have a lunch account that you can use however your parents/carers can't pay until ParentPay is set up so there is no need to worry regarding paying until they receive notification. No need to carry any cash in school

Other bits for your parents/carers:

Transport - You will need to ensure that you receive confirmation for any transport requirements from County: you will need to contact School Transport via Worcestershire County Council website; http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20045/school_and_college_transport

STEPS ~ You will need to email steps@alvechurch.worcs.sch.uk to register for before and after school

Our main method of communication is email, however if you ever require any paper copies these can be collected from reception. No paper communication is sent home to ensure all/both parents/carers receive information and to assure you that you will not miss any communication from school.

Music lessons - start second week in and must be booked directly through Music Academy Midlands <http://www.musicacademymidlands.com/>

There is a lot more information in our Year 5 Welcome Pack which you should have already received from the school office.

Kind regards

Mrs Rancins (Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguard Lead)