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with special thanks to

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For their teamwork and advice in helping to produce this resource and participation trialling with new pupils.

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Passport to New School Rationale

Over the last 30 years, there has been considerable research that has aimed to determine the effects of changing schools upon individual pupils. School transition has often been associated in research studies with a lowering in self-esteem and self efficacy, with psychological distress and decreases in academic achievement (Eccles & Buchanan, 1996). The majority of this work has concentrated upon the transfer between primary and secondary schools, and has led to various initiatives locally and nationwide to support children through this process.

Comparatively little research exists on the social and emotional impact of multiple school transfers that are often experienced by children and young people from military families. There is considerable evidence (Drummet et al, 2003; Johnson et al, 2007; Swan et al, 2002) particularly from the United States, to suggest that children of the Armed Forces and their families are vulnerable to many additional stresses when compared to civilian children. Military families move on average every two to three years (Kelley, Finkel & Ashby, 2003) yet much of the literature focuses on the psychological impact of war, deployment and separation. As a result, research into the impact of these frequent relocations, particularly on children's school adjustment remains an understudied area.

The research that exists is mixed. Cornille (1993) found that a stressful adjustment period starting before a move and continuing for a time after the move is common. A determining factor in whether the transition is positive or negative seems to be the amount and quality of support provided to the child (Pollari and Bullock, 1989). However, it is also important to consider individual stages of development. For example, Hendershott (1989) found that recent moves coupled with five or more lifetime moves were associated with lower self-esteem in adolescents. Feelings of powerlessness over their own lives were also found to be especially relevant to the adolescents in this study. Nonetheless, Drummet et al (2003) noted that regardless of age, children from military families will have no choice in whether the family moves. Research suggests that if they lack a sense of control over their environment, it may cause feelings of anxiety. Military children often face the prospect of leaving all that has become familiar to them and must learn to adjust to new surroundings, new faces, different expectations and standards of behaviour often with little notice.

The existing knowledge base on school transfer also highlights the importance of supporting pupils' personal and social adaptation in these areas. For example, evidence suggests that children who are involved in the movement process and have a sense of control over outcomes, adjust more quickly to then change and develop greater self confidence (Working with Military Children, 2003; Stroh, 1990).

Schools are in an ideal position to provide the transferring child with a programme to assist their adaptation to the new environment. Adaptation to a new school environment can be considered by reference to social, organisational and academic factors. These were explored by Hotton et al. (2004) as part of a joint project with The Australian Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and Department of Defence. This study includes evidence drawn from fifty five Australian schools and four supporting organisations and a literature review of other evidence in this area. The findings were evaluated by reference to focus groups, stakeholders and experts consultants. The resulting guidance (Students Move: Supporting Students Who Change Schools, 2004 executive summary) offers specific areas where pupils are likely to require support. These include aspects of the formal/informal setting, social and individual factors. In particular, the project hoped to minimise the negative impact of pupils changing schools by offering guidance to address anticipated difficulties associated with the move.

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Teachers Notes

Learning Objective

- For a new pupil to quickly feel settled in school, important and valued.
- · For members of staff of the new school to quickly know and understand the child, their fears and experiences.

'My Passport' has been designed to provide a teaching assistant with a suitable resource to help primary school children settle guickly into their new school environment.

The passport comprises of six units. The first is designed to be completed by the child at home before they arrive and the following four units during the first week of school. The sixth unit is a review to be completed with the child at the end of week 2.

Each unit addresses a different aspect of adaptation. It is not intended that pupils complete all activities. We recommend that a teaching assistant spends at least half an hour per day with the pupil in a one to one or in a small group session during their first week to work through this valuable resource.

Aim

For the new pupil to put the completed worksheets into their passport ringbinder. At the end of the first week the child can be proud of what he/she has learnt about the new school whilst the teacher and teaching assistant receive instant helpful information about the pupil's interests or hobbies.

Achievement certificates and relevant information can continue to be added to the passport over the duration of their primary education.

'My Passport' can also be used for children who will be moving on to a new primary school. By working with a teaching assitant, completing the Exit Unit resources, most pupils will find the move far less daunting and proudly take a passport to show their new teacher on their first day.

Unit Structure

Unit 1 - Pre-arrival

This unit includes activities and information to be sent to the pupil prior to arrival at their new school.

- Parent letter
- · My personal record
- Pupil letter
- My family

Please also send the new family photographs of the school and a school leaflet.

Unit 2 - Welcome to our school

This unit includes activities and administration of pre-measure.

Chosen activities to be completed in the First Session, Day One with a teaching assistant. Completed works to be filed in new passport.

- Pre-measure
- · Map of new school

- My website task

- My school day
- School rules Contact with parents

Also please discuss 'My personal record' and 'My family'.

Unit 3 - People

This unit includes information and activities about the adults in the school, classmates and friends.

Chosen activities to be completed in the Second Session, Day Two with a teaching assistant. Completed works to be filed in new passport.

• Name the teacher Friends

Unit 4 - All about me

Activities include reference to personal experiences, preferences and important information about the individual pupil.

Chosen activities to be completed in the Third Session, Day Three with a teaching assistant. Completed works to be filed in new passport.

- My pets
- · All about me
- My homes My favourites
- My feelings
- Favourites game

Unit 5 - My new class

Includes reference to classroom rules, practices and routines and learning activities; reference to informal social environment including play activities.

Chosen activities to be completed in the Fourth Session, Day Four with a teaching assistant. Completed works to be filed in new passport.

- My new class
- How well do you know your new school?
- Classroom treasure hunt

- My Buddy
- Welcome wordsearch

Extra points to discuss during the above sessions

Surrounding areas / local attractions Community clubs Feelings about previous home and school Differences between this school and last

Unit 6 - Review

An opportunity for the pupil to reflect upon their experience to date; completion of post measure; provide/obtain feedback to/from parents

Chosen activities to be completed in the Fifth Session at the end of Week 2 with a teaching assistant. Completed works to be filed in new passport.

- Post measure
- · Contact with parents

Exit.

Upon exit from the school, the pages can be reviewed and updated if the child already has a passport.

If the child does not have a passport, the following pages should be completed and activities prepared to support the pupil's induction to their next educational environment.

- Contact with new school
- Memories page
- My pets
- Keep in touch
- My personal record
- My family
- My website task
- All about me
- My feelings
- My homes
- My favourites

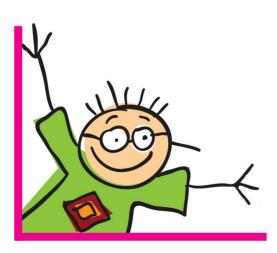


Unit Pre-Arrival

This unit includes activities and information to be sent to the pupil prior to arrival at their new school if possible.

- Parent letter
- Pupil letter
- My personal record
- My family

Please also send photographs of the school and a school leaflet to the new family.



Dear Parents

We are delighted that your family is joining our school and we are looking forward to welcoming you.

During the first week we run a structured and fun induction programme for new pupils. We will be in contact with you during this time.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Headteacher

(Enclose photographs of the school and any relevant literature/flyers/leaflets)

Dear

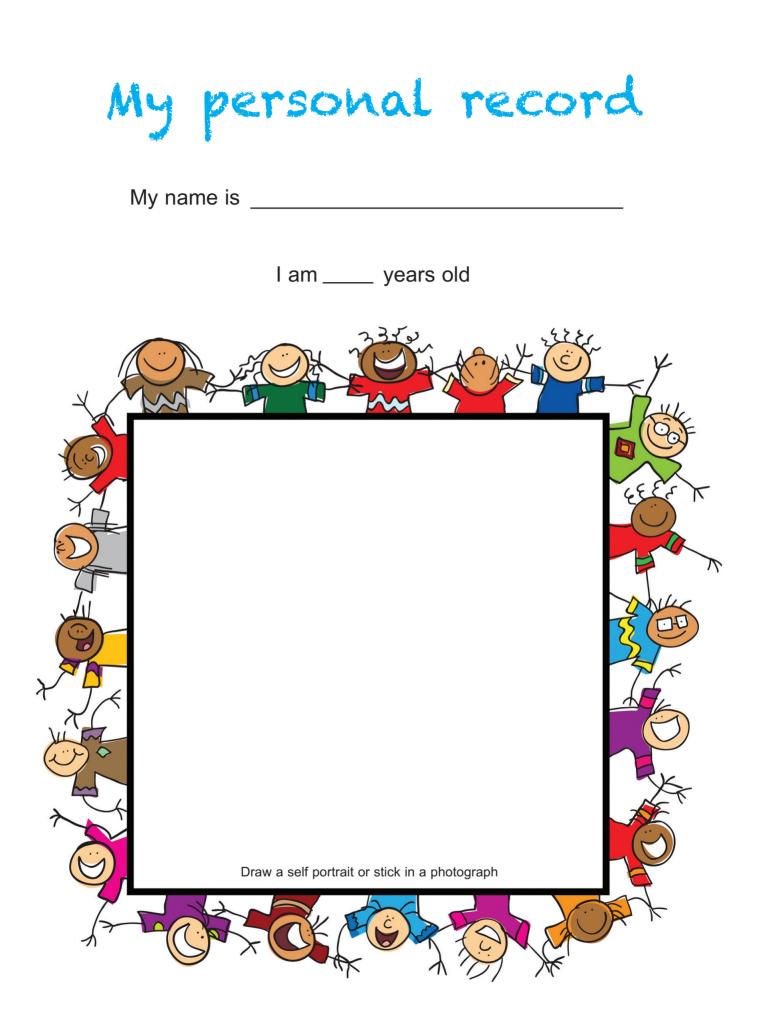
We are very excited that you will soon be joining our school and we are really looking forward to welcoming you to our class.

We have enclosed some photographs of our school and suggest you look on our fun school website so that you feel you know a little bit more about us. www

So that we will know a little bit more about you, could you please fill in the 'personal record' and 'my family' pages. We can then discuss these with you on your first day.

We will enjoy working with you to help you settle quickly and happily into school life at

(Enclose photographs of school)

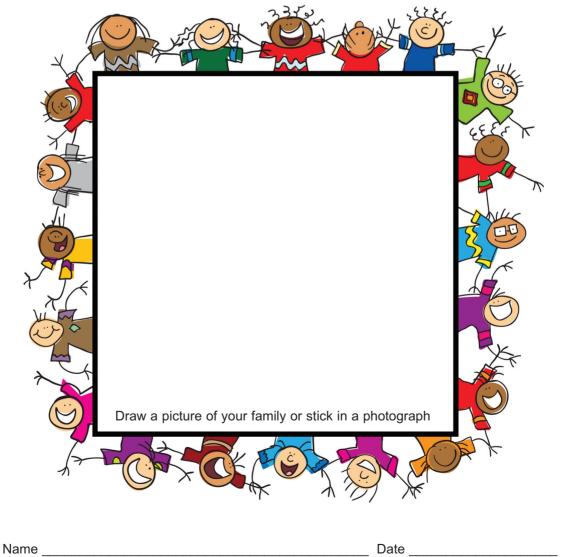


Date	

My family

I live with		
I have brother/s named		
I have sister/s named		
What people in my family do		

Other special family members _





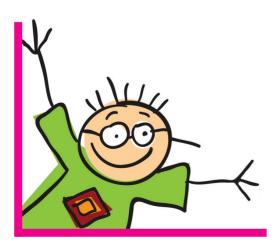
Unit 2 Welcome to our school

First Session, Day One

This unit includes activities and administration of pre-measure.

- Pre-measure
- My website task
- School rules
- Map of new school
- My school day
- Contact with parents

Also please discuss 'My personal record' and 'My family'.





Not at all worried

I get very worried about it

Please rate each of the following concerns using the scale above

Lunchtime	Being bullied	Starting new lessons
Finding my way around	Break times	Being given harder work than I am used to
Different rules	Fitting in	Not having help with my work when I need it
Knowing where equipment is kept	Making new friends	Tests/exams
Assembly	Losing old friends	Different ways of learning
What to do if I am feeling ill	Teachers	What the teacher might expect me to do
Getting to school	Being the new person	I worry about
I worry about	I worry about	I worry about

If there are any other concerns you have you can write them in the empty boxes and rate them



My website task

Look on the school website to answer the following questions:

I have PE on			
For PE I have to wear			
We are given homework on			
It has to be handed in on			
If I do my best I will be reward	ded with		
The school clubs available to	me		
The current class topics are			
My school uniform is			
Each day I need to bring in	book bag water bottle pencil case lunch box		

_____ Date ___

School Rules

Discuss and colour in the school rules

Do be polite and helpful Do be gentle O listen to others Do be homest Do work hard Do look after property





Map of my new school

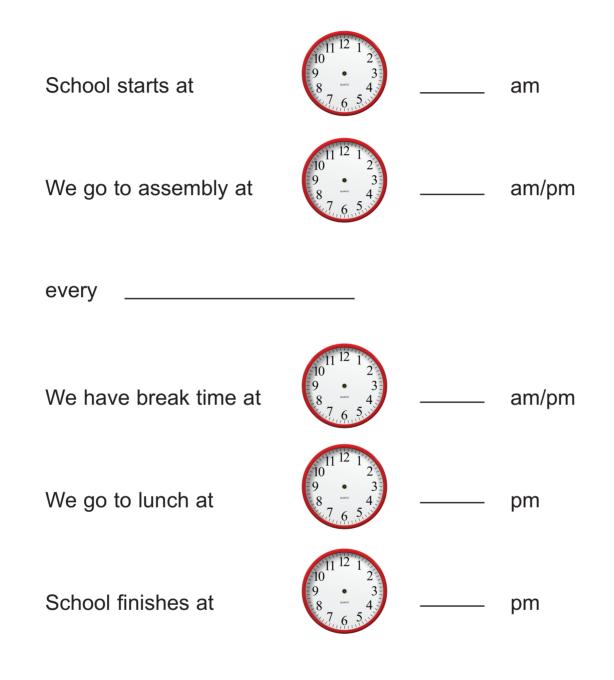
As you walk around the school, label and colour in:

Your classroom in red

The head teachers room in blue The playground in green The toilets in yellow The office in orange The hall in pink The ICT room in brown The kitchen in grey The medical room in purple

Paste a copy of school map

My school day





Contact with parents

Unit 2

Contact with parent ... / ... / ... General summary of discussion

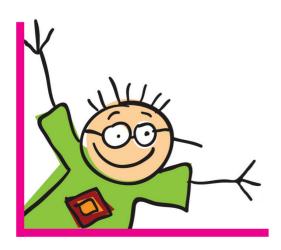




Second Session, Day Two

This unit includes information and activities about the adults in the school, classmates and friends.

- Name the teacher
- Friends



Name the teacher

Say hello to the following adults and then write their names.

Who is the head teacher?

Who teaches me?

Who works in the office?

Who are the midday supervisors?

Who do I go to if I am upset?

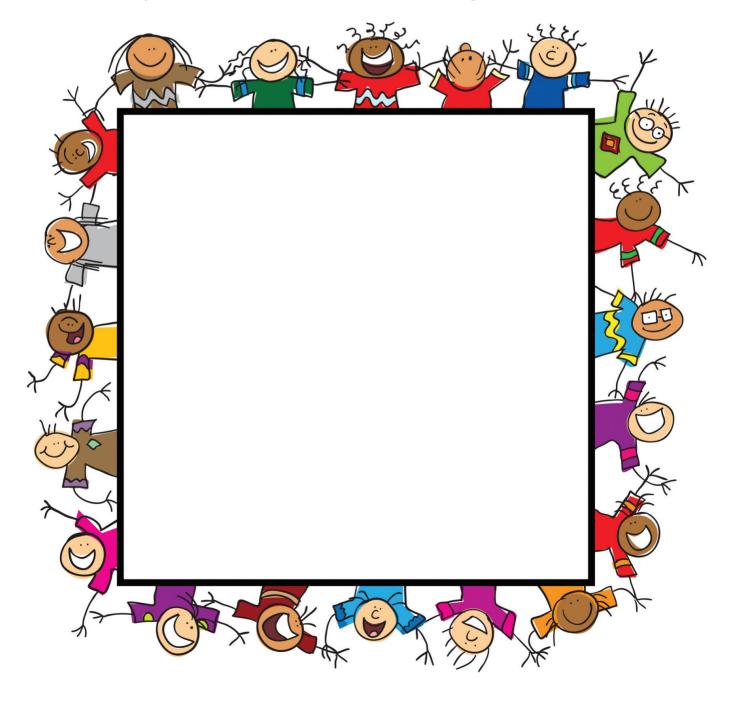
Who do I go to if I am feeling unwell?



Friends

Draw a picture of a friend from your old school. Discuss how you feel about moving away from this friend. How are you going to keep in contact.

Describe what you like best about your friend so you know what to look for in finding a new friend.



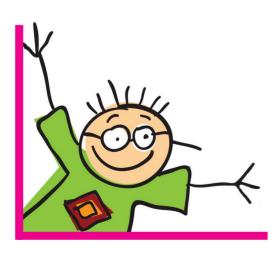


Unit Unit 4 All about me

Third Session, Day Three

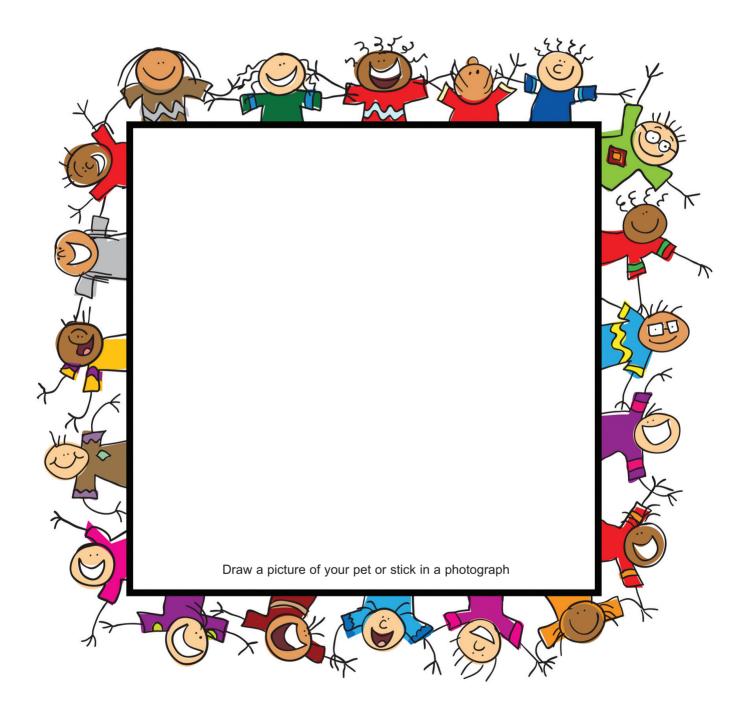
Activities include reference to personal experiences, preferences and important information about the individual pupil.

- My pets
- All about me
- My feelings
- My homes
- My favourites
- Favourites game



My pets

Tell us about any pets you have had



All about me

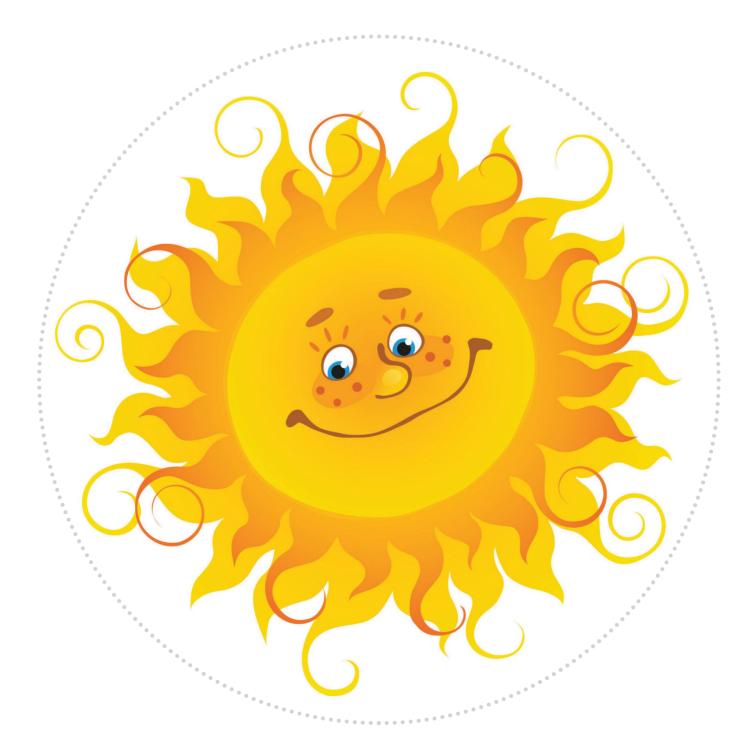
My hobbies are
I am good at
My friends are called
Something funny
Something that is special to me is
The way I learn best is
I am proud of
My best memories from my previous school are
In this new school I would like to
In the future I would like to become
Name Date

5/

My feelings

Cut out this sun and a supply of clouds from the following page. Write any worries or concerns you may have on each cloud. Over the next few days discuss your clouds with the teacher. As you become less worried, move your clouds under your sun.

It is OK to have some clouds left.







My	ho	M	es
----	----	---	----

Go to the world map and show us where you have come from.

I have been to ____ primary school(s)

I have lived in ____ homes

dates from/to	home address	school address

This is a useful log for children to carry into later life

Name _____ Date _____

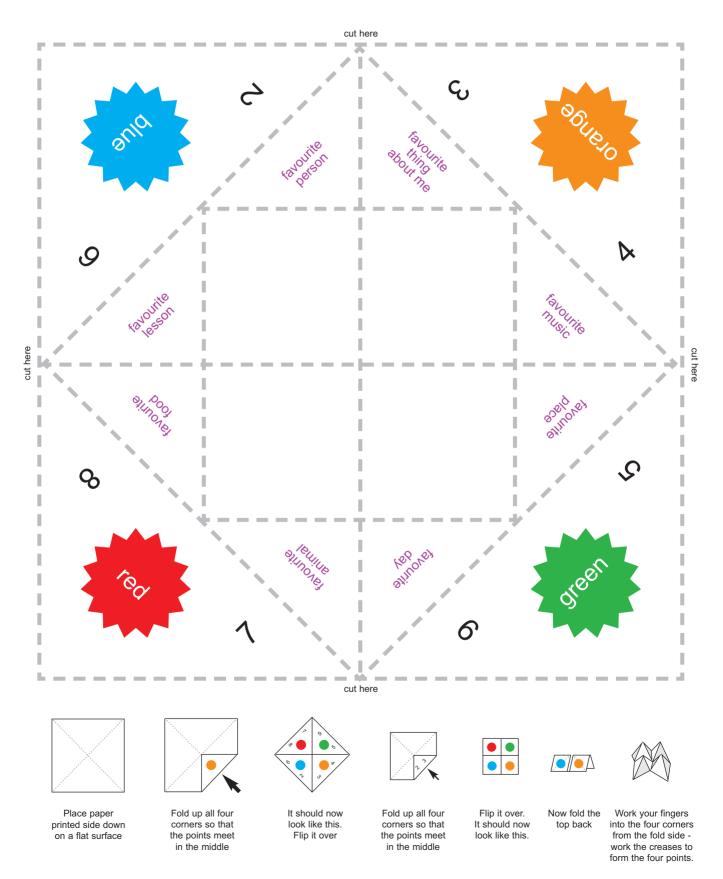
My favourites

Music —	
Film	
Book —	
Place —	
Day —	
Animal —	
TV programme	
Lessons	
Colour	
Sport	
Football team	
Food	
Famous person	



Favourites game

Cut out 'flick flack' game and enjoy finding out more about one another



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Fourth Session, Day Four

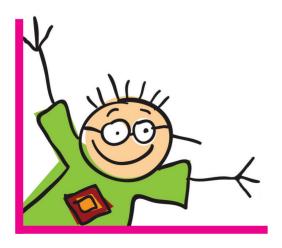
This unit includes reference to classroom rules, practices and routines and learning activities; reference to informal social environment including play activities.

- My new class
- How well do you know your new school?
- Classroom treasure hunt
- My buddy
- Welcome wordsearch

Reminder:

During your sessions have you discussed

- Surrounding areas and local attractions
- Community clubs
- How child feels about what has been left behind
- · Differences between this school and last



My new class

My teach	ers are	called
----------	---------	--------

These are the names of children in my class

What do I want people to know about me?

Who likes doing what I like doing?





How well do you know your school?

Place the happy and sad cubes at opposite sides of room. Stand next to the cube that answers the teacher's questions.

	\checkmark	\checkmark
I know how to: Find my way around without difficulty Direct someone to the toilets Direct someone to the office		
I know: The school rules All the teachers names		
 I know what to do if: I cannot do my homework I get bullied or something frightens me I am confused or worried about something at school I am late to school I feel ill I need help 		







Classroom treasure hunt

Ask two children from your class to join you to help find the answers to these questions.

- Where are the wet play games?
- Where are the scissors kept?
- Where are the dictionaries kept?
- Where would you find A4 and squared paper?
- Where are the lunchboxes kept?
- Where are the water bottles kept and when can you drink from them?
- Do I have a drawer or box to put my own work in?
- Where do I put completed homework?
- Where do I keep my coat?
- Where do I keep my PE kit?

My buddy

Ask a buddy from your class to join you to help find the answers to these questions.

My buddy for the first day will be
My buddy for the second day will be
 What are the playground rules?
 What are the rules for wet playtimes?
 Where am I allowed to go at lunchtime?
 When is the best time to go to the toilet?
 When am I allowed in the classroom?
 How will I know when lunch or break times are over?

- Are there any special classroom routines?
- What do I do if I am are being bullied?
- What should I do if I am late to school?
- Which are the best school clubs to attend?





Wordsearch

h	х	h	е	r	0	j	Z	е	е
а	d	r	f	у	u	У	n	t	t
р	а	b	W	е	I	С	0	m	е
р	d	S	j	0	i	n	е	d	е
У	u	У	0	u	r	а	n	u	u
h	а	V	е	q	i	Z	b	0	I
Z	S	С	h	0	0	I	У	b	i
W	е	0	У	W	f	У	S	f	t
q	q	е	е	u	d	W	У	I	0
У	е	n	b	k	j	u	f	r	n

Find these words in the wordsearch:

welcome	to	your	new
school	we	are	happy
you	have	joined	US

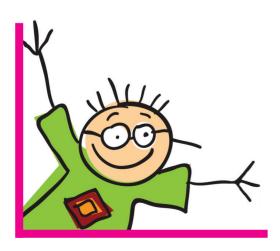




Fifth Session, End of Week 2

An opportunity for the pupil to reflect upon their experiences to date, completion of post measure and to provide/obtain feedback to/from parents.

- Post measure
- Contact with parents



How	do	you	feel	abo	out	
	12	2 3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10	••	

Not at all worried

I get very worried about it

Please rate each of the following concerns using the scale above

Lunchtime	Being bullied	Starting new lessons
Finding my way around	Break times	Being given harder work than I am used to
Different rules	Fitting in	Not having help with my work when I need it
Knowing where equipment is kept	Making new friends	Tests/exams
Assembly	Losing old friends	Different ways of learning
What to do if I am feeling ill	Teachers	What the teacher might expect me to do
Getting to school	Being the new person	I worry about
I worry about	I worry about	I worry about

If there are any other concerns you have you can write them in the empty boxes and rate them

Name _____ Date (Week 2) _____

Contact with parents

Unit 6

Contact with parent ... / ... / ... General summary of discussion

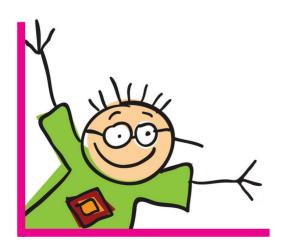


Exit Unit

On exit from the school, the pages can be reviewed and updated if the child already has a passport.

If the child does not have a passport, the following pages should be completed and activities prepared to support the pupil's induction to their next educational environment.

- Contact with new school
- Memories page
- Keep in touch
- My personal record
- My family
- · My website task
- My pets
- All about me
- My feelings
- My homes
- My favourites





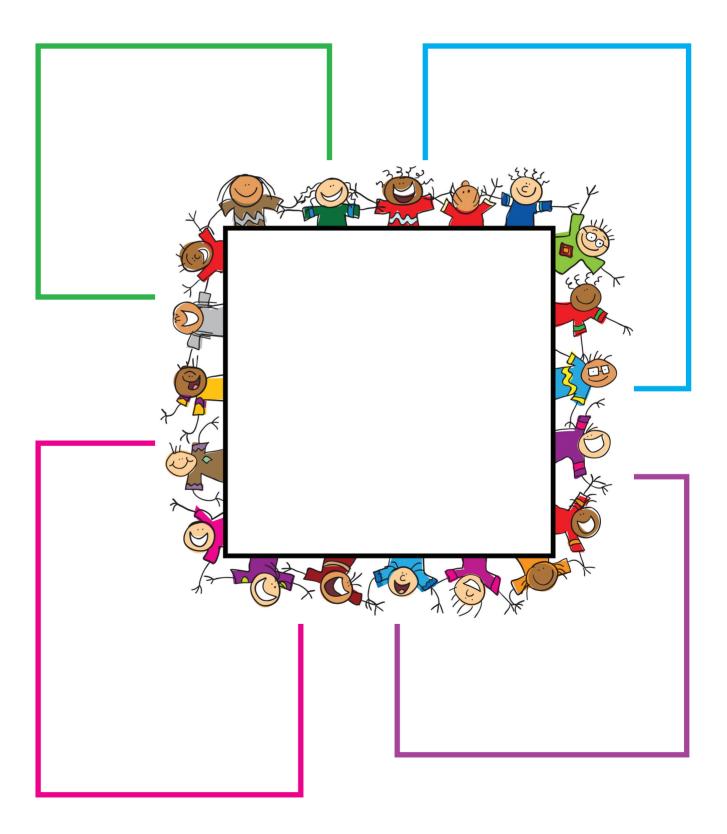
Contact with my new school

Sit with your teacher whilst she makes a telephone call to your new primary school. They should be happy to tell your teacher the following information

New head teacher
New class name
Now close teacher
New class teacher
New teaching assistant
Who will meet me on my first day
General summary of discussion

Memories page

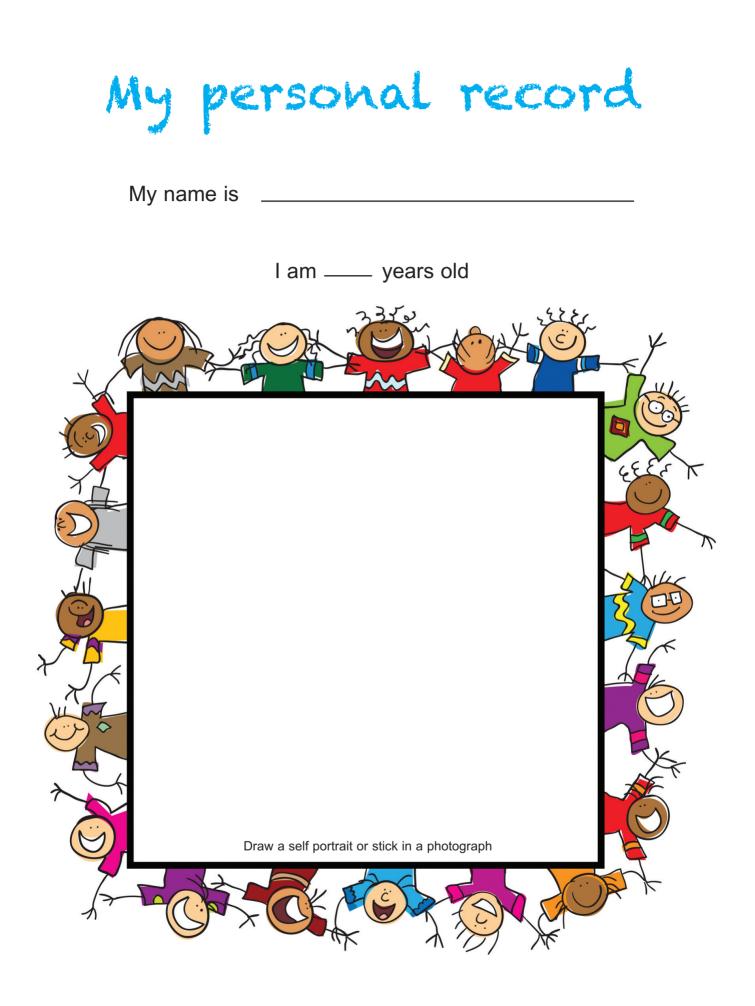
School memories are unique and precious. Use this page to tell us those most special to you or attach some photographs.





Keep in touch

Name Address	My message to you
Phone Mobile Email	Autograph
Name Address	My message to you
Phone Mobile Email	Autograph
Name Address	My message to you
Phone Mobile Email	Autograph
Name Address	My message to you
Phone Mobile Email	Autograph

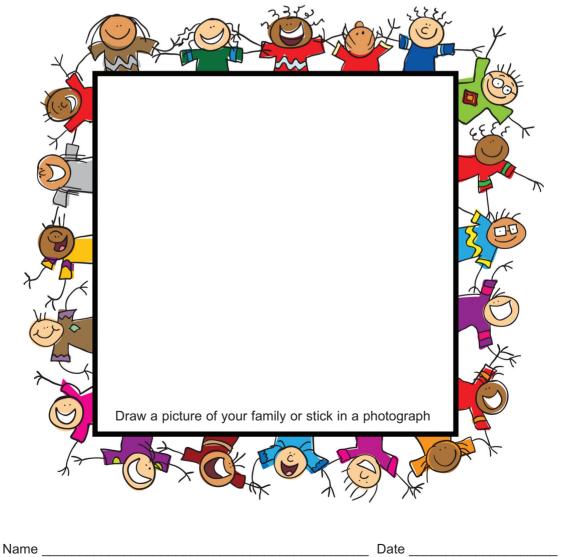


Date _____

My family

I live with
I have brother/s named
I have sister/s named
What people in my family do

Other special family members





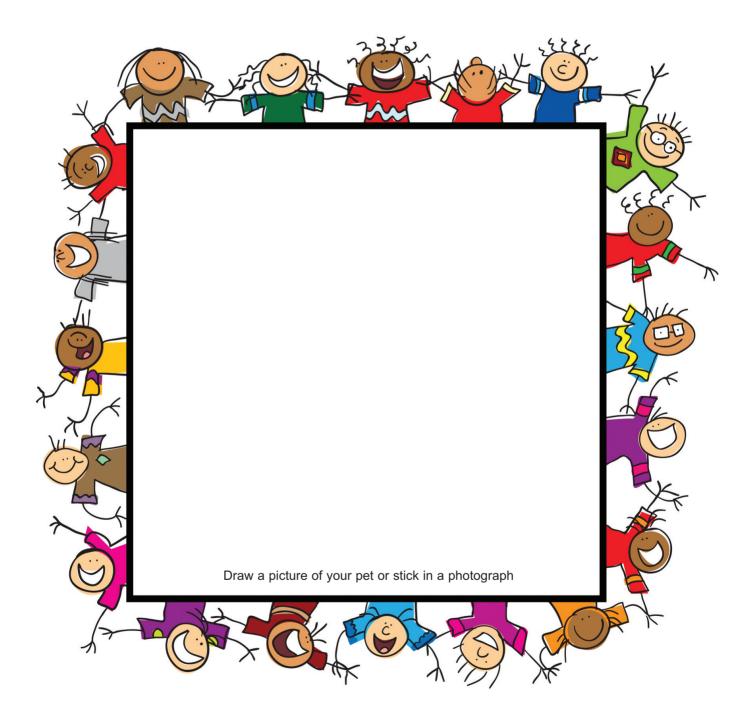
My website task

Look on the school website to answer the following questions:

I have PE on	
For PE I have to wear	
We are given homework on	
It has to be handed in on _	
If I do my best I will be reward	ded with
The school clubs available to	me
The current class topics are	
My school uniform is	
Each day I need to bring in	book bag water bottle pencil case lunch box

My pets

Tell us about any pets you have had



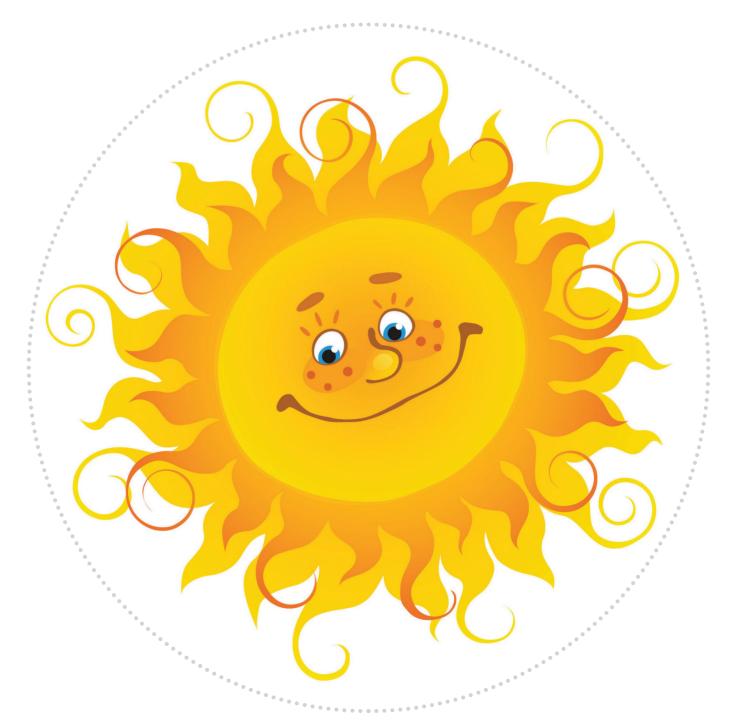
All about me

My hobbies are
I am good at
My friends are called
Something funny
Something that is special to me is
The way I learn best is
I am proud of
My best memories from my previous school are
In this new school I would like to
In the future I would like to become
Name Date

My feelings

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It is OK to have some clouds left.









Go to the world map and show us where you have come from.

I have been to ____ primary school(s)

I have lived in ____ homes

dates from/to	home address	school address

This is a useful log for children to carry into later life

Name _____ Date _____

My favourites

Music	
Film	
Book	
Place	
Day	
Animal	
TV programme	9
Lessons	
Colour	
Sport	
Football team	
Food	
Famous perso	n





