

July 2020 Summer Edition Transition Time

Starting Year 3 (Junior School, Key Stage 2)

Starting a new school is a big step for parents as well as children. Not only is your child embarking on their first taste of junior school education, but they are also going to a new location which involves a new, 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?

You can make a difference!

Most schools have issues during drop-off and pick-up times caused by too many cars in the vicinity of the school site creating **congestion, pollution and road safety** issues. This makes for an unsatisfactory start to the day for everyone. **Your own travel choices directly affect this situation** so we would encourage you to think carefully about how you plan to travel to your new school and try to make a difference from the start.



The [My Journey Travel Planning Team](#) at Hampshire County Council (HCC) is here to support you, as well as to encourage you to travel actively to school 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. There's new information on [social distancing](#) too.



Getting to know the basics

Once you have your child's school place confirmed, visit the school's website and read through any materials they have provided for you, including their prospectus and Home to School Agreement, to find out key information such as:

- **School start and finish times** including specific drop-off and collection arrangements for your child to enable social distancing on the school site - please adhere to these arrangements rigidly
- **Breakfast and after school club timings and availability** if you wish to use these facilities for your child
- **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 (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 or there may be a temporary one-way system in place to support social distancing).
- **Cycle and scooter storage** - if you wish your child to scoot 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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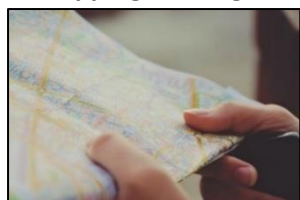
Film fun with Roman legend Vitruvius

This [8-minute, historical and hysterical film](#) by our fantastic friends at [Histrionics](#) is designed to help you start thinking about planning your new route to school. Based around the true story of Vitruvius, a Roman author, architect and engineer who lived during the 1st century BC, you will pick up lots of hints and tips about planning your journey, travelling sustainably and keeping the environment clean, as well as yourself fit and healthy.



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 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, scoot or cycle to school at least on some days.

2. Map making

Once you have decided the best options (there may be more than one, depending on whether you are walking or cycling) for your new route to school, create your own map on a piece of paper or card. If you've never drawn a map before, there are some good ideas to practice on the [Teaching Ideas](#) website.

As if looking from above (bird's eye or plan view), 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 a key with 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. Marching Orders

Once you are happy with your map, get into your best Roman centurion's 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 or scooting and one better for cycling? Do you need to make any changes to your map having tried it out? Don't forget to consider other factors such as whether the path may be muddy at times or whether there are streetlights so you will be seen when the evenings are darker.

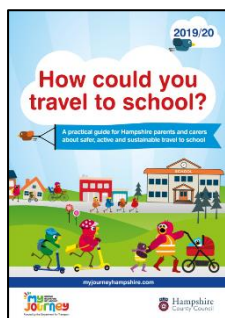
Please do share your routes with us tagging #KeepActiveHants. You might win a prize 😊



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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. Paper copies will be handed out via schools in September, 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 - on your feet, scooter or bicycle - as often as possible. If it is raining, be ready with a waterproof coat and, on darker nights, consider reflective clothing. 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

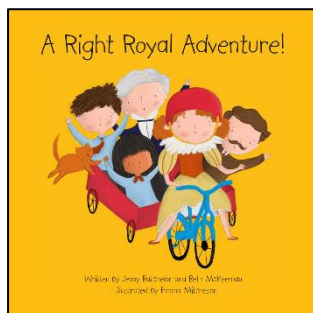
family, please consider doing one of the following:

- **Park and Stride** - if you must drive to school, please find a suitable Park and Stride site 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 and 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, perhaps with them if you are able to observe social distancing? 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, 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. Please follow Government guidance on social distancing.

Further information can be found here:

- HCC's Road Safety Team have a great website with information including the [Junior Road Safety Officer](#) scheme and the correct use of [car seats](#).
- 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 a really [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
- The Department of Transport's [Think!](#) website has some excellent resources for 7-12 year-olds including activities around road safety and independence as a pedestrian.
- Road safety charity Brake has some [free Zebras road safety resources](#) for children plus 'Beep! Beep! Days'
- 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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