Ideas that may support children with transition

- Arrange a 'virtual' visit the school with the child, if appropriate. This may be done with the parents if the child is at home.
- Make a **Transition to School Booklet**: ensure the child has key photos in a little book (one photo per page) of their new classroom, the entrance to the setting, where they will eat lunch, the toilet and their key worker and/or class teacher. School will need to send these photos to the setting during this time. Ensure parents have a copy too. This book can be in hard or soft format.
- Read books together about starting school e.g. Spot Goes to School.
- Tell stories about transitioning to school, role-play with puppets about going to school, make a school in the home corner (if the child is in the setting). Again these activities may be done virtually or settings may wish to record a little video of the child's key worker reading certain books to send home to the child.
- Look on the new school's website with the child. Print off an interesting picture for the child. Send the link home. Is there a virtual tour the child can look at on the website with parents/their key worker?
- If parents are happy, you may be able to get hold of some (washed) school uniform from the school to look at with the child. Again this could be done virtually with the child if needed e.g. dressing a teddy bear in the uniform via Zoom.
- Encourage the child's family to attend the welcome meeting in the next few weeks (this will most likely be on Zoom or similar).
- Ask about a virtual home visit from the school. The child may need more than one. The child's new key worker may wish to show the child a special toy that will be in their new setting on the first day!
- Plan carefully in the meeting about when the child will start and for how long each session may be. Ask where the child will be dropped and who will meet them at the door. Ensure you have photos of the area and person so the child can be prepared as parents will most likely not be allowed in the building.
- Show examples of visuals that the child finds supportive e.g. Now and Next. Send copies to school or decide together which new ones will need to be made by school e.g. if using a photographic lanyard.
- The school may have a 'Welcome Pack' which may be useful to also look at in the setting.
- This is a lovely game children can play at home/in the setting to prepare for school: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhtcvk7/articles/znc9vk7
- Practise nursery rhymes at home or virtually with the child and let the new school know which are the child's favourites: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdqjjhv. Perhaps they can sing one of these on the child's first day!