

## YEAR TRANSITIONS · GRADES 2–3

# Moving Up to Year 3

What changes — and how to feel ready

## Why this transition feels big

Moving from Year 2 to Year 3 (or Grade 2 to Grade 3) is often the biggest change in primary school. The work gets longer, you're expected to do more on your own, and you might be in a different building or have a different playground. Most children feel a mix of excited and a bit nervous — and that's completely normal.

## What changes in Year 3 / Grade 3

What was true in Year 2	What's often true in Year 3
Mostly play-based and active learning	More writing and longer tasks at desks
Spellings might be 5–10 words	Spellings often grow to 10–15 words, with rules
Times tables — twos, fives, tens	All times tables up to 12×12 by end of year
One main teacher	Often still one teacher, but more specialist lessons
Reading short books	Reading chapter books, longer stories
Help is offered quickly	You're expected to try first, then ask for help

## Things you can do to feel ready

### Practise asking for help

Year 3 teachers want you to try first. A good order is: try → ask a partner → ask the teacher. Practise this in Year 2 before you move up.

### Build your reading stamina

Try reading for 15 minutes without stopping. Over the summer, work up to 20 or 30 minutes. It's the single best preparation.



**Learn to look after your stuff**

In Year 3 you'll have more equipment — pencils, ruler, glue, books. Practise packing your bag and remembering things.

**Get comfortable being wrong**

In Year 3 you'll get harder questions. Mistakes are how you learn. Try not to give up when something's tricky.

**Three things I'm excited about**

Write or draw three things you're looking forward to about Year 3. They can be small things like a new lunchbox or big things like learning about a topic.

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**Two things I'm a bit worried about**

It's okay to have worries. Writing them down often makes them smaller. You can talk about them with a grown-up if you want to.

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**One thing I'm going to be brave about**

Pick one thing — like making new friends, putting your hand up more, or trying harder spellings.

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