



YEAR 4 - 2018/19

Staff on both sides of the school continue to consider how to ensure the transition to our new Junior School/Senior School model is a great success. I would like to stress how much we believe this is the right way to deliver the primary curriculum and our excellent team of primary trained staff is excited by the prospect of having Years 4 (and eventually Year 5) on their side of the pond.

Teachers

Mr Ian Maude will be moving over to the new Junior School in September. Ian has taught Year 4 for a number of years, including two years at Red House. Ian knows our curriculum well but, more importantly, he knows the experience the children have had on the P&S site in Year 4. Therefore, he is well-placed to replicate and build upon this in the new Junior School. His corporate knowledge will be invaluable and he will work closely with his teaching partner in Year 4 to ensure the teaching programme is rigorous, challenging and inspiring.

The allocation of teachers for all years will be finalised in the coming weeks. As has always been the case, we will be telling the children who their new teacher will be ready for their transition day in June. There will also be a Year 4 transition meeting (as with all year groups in the N&I School) before the end of the year. This will give parents the opportunity to meet the teachers of both classes.

Curriculum

We are working on the timetable for the whole school from Reception to Year 11. Our plan is for Year 4 pupils to come over to the Senior School for Games along with Year 3 (as they currently do). We are also planning for them to come to the Senior School for their Music lesson and this will be combined with lunch in the Senior School. French will be taught by Mr Maude who lived in France and taught in a French Primary School.

Clubs

Pupils will continue to have a rich variety of extra-curricular activities led by experienced members of staff and having an extra member of staff in the Junior School will help with this. Some clubs, for example football, will continue to be offered to Years 4-6, using the Senior School facilities. Other clubs, which have proved to be popular in the P&S School, for example Minecraft, will be replicated in the new Junior School.

We will also continue to explore ways of extending our provision by using external providers. If there are clubs parents wish to see in the Junior School, please make this known to Mr Haywood. Joint ventures between both sites, such as musical productions, will continue to happen (we're doing Buggy Malone in 2019).

Sport

As mentioned, the children in Years 3 & 4 will still be going over to the Senior School for Games. Some pupils in Years 3 & 4 have represented the school this year and we will continue to seek opportunities for this to be the case next year.

Year 4 will go swimming at Billingham Forum. They will be collected from the Junior School by the Senior School PE teachers.

We fully intend to continue to run events for Years 4-6 on the Senior School campus: for example sports day. Moving forward, Year 3 may also join some events so that we are keeping the whole of Key Stage 2 together.

Responsibility

We pride ourselves on giving the children age appropriate responsibilities. The children in Year 3 were fantastic tour guides in the N&I School and the children in Year 4 were great in the P&S School too at the last Open Morning. We will continue to ask both year groups to help out at such events. We will also look to allocate age appropriate tasks in the new Junior School.

It is worth noting that pupils in Year 4 in the P&S School are given very little responsibility because they are the youngest children on the campus. We believe keeping the children in the Junior School will provide them with extra responsibilities.

Assemblies & Church Services

At the moment, pupils in Year 4 attend church services with Years 5 & 6 and they take it in turns to perform; this will continue. We fully intend to provide opportunities for Years 4, 5 & 6 to come together as well as for Year 4 to be part of the new Junior School.

Prep & Wrap Around Care

We will be running a supervised prep session for Years 3 & 4 in the Junior School from 3.30-4pm each day, similar to the Homework Club arrangement we have in the P&S School at the moment for Year 4. There will be no charge for this.

The new charges for Wrap Around Care are outlined in the fees letter from the Chair of School Council. Although Year 4 will be charged for breakfast, this charge includes the provision of food (which is not currently the case in the P&S School). We have made changes to the cost of after school care. These charges will now be the same in the Junior School and the Senior School.

Refurbishment of the Junior School

We are finalising our programme of refurbishment. This will include renovation of the three rooms at the top of the Old Vicarage for Year 4 (two classrooms and a resource area) and the creation of a new Learning Centre. The Learning Centre will be in the Old Vicarage and, whilst it will be available to all the children, it will be invaluable for Year 4 as they develop their independent learning skills. We are also hoping to create a wonderful outdoor learning space for all the children and a 'Zen Den' for mindfulness.

Rest assured, I want to see every child in Red House flourish. All members of staff in the primary phase believe keeping Years 4 & 5 together with the rest of the primary years is a positive step and we are all determined to make this work moving forward. We do not wish to see the children in Year 3 disadvantaged and hope they will feel they are 'trail blazers' for the new Junior School.

K D James
June 2018