

24 May 2024
EWs/AHt

Dear King's Oak Families,

Year 4: Welcome to Middle School!

We are looking forward to our Year 4 children progressing into the next year of their education with us at King's Oak Academy. As you know, when children are in Year 5, they join Middle School. We are committed to making the transition from Lower School into Middle School as smooth as possible so that both you and your child feel safe and supported throughout your time with us at King's Oak. To support this, our Middle School team have been working with the Lower School team to design a wide range of transition activities for both you and your child to participate in throughout Term 6.

Familiar Faces

Miss Side has spent a considerable amount of time on the Lower Site this term, meeting your children and meeting many of you on the gate; throughout Term 6, Year 5 and Year 6 teaching partners will visit Year 4 regularly and begin to work with the children. This will support your child in their transition as they already build connections with some of their key adults for next year. Mrs Watts, Miss Side and the Year 5 and Year 6 teaching team have timetabled slots in Term 6 to visit your child in their Year 4 lessons. The purpose of this is to ensure that children are familiar with the faces that they will see every day and will begin to build trusting relationships with us. This also means that we begin to understand your child on a social, emotional, and academic level.

Forest School

Throughout Term 6, we have planned for Year 4 to explore and develop our Forest School area on the Middle School site. These sessions will take place on Mondays (so remember wellies and gardening gloves if your child has any!) and will be led by our Forest School specialist. Year 4 class teachers will attend these sessions to support your child in making the link between old and new; Middle School teaching partners and wider support staff will drop in during these times to develop connections with our new Year 5s!

Invitation to Cake and Coffee at 3:20pm on Thursday 6 June 2024

We would like to invite you to a Coffee and Cake session at 3:20pm on Thursday 6 June 2024, in The Canteen. This will be an informal opportunity for you to meet the Year 5 and Year 6 teaching team and leaders and, if you have not already, ask any questions you may have. During this time, you will have the opportunity to visit the Middle School site with your child so that you can explore the Middle School learning and play areas.

Invitation to a Coffee and Information Evening on Wednesday 19 June 2024

Miss Ogden and Mrs Watts will hold a transition information event in The Canteen from 3:20pm to 4:00pm on Wednesday 19 June 2024. During this event, we will talk about what Year 5 looks like, take a tour of the site, and meet some of the key adults who will support your child throughout the next stages of their education.

Handover

We have timetabled sessions for the Year 5 Class Teachers to complete a handover meeting with the current Year 4 Class Teachers. This will ensure that your child's new teacher has a holistic insight into your child and will ensure that current support for all children continues and develops. It will also mean that teachers will know what works, and what does not work for your child, and will know how to make them feel at home in their new learning environment.

'Mini-Step' Afternoons

In June and July, there will be a number of 'Mini-Step' opportunities for your child to spend in their new spaces, with their current class teachers. Middle School staff will also spend time with your child during these times. This will prepare them for when they spend time with their new class teachers on the 'Step-Up' Day.

'Step-Up' Day

On Wednesday 3 July, Reception - Year 9 are stepping up into their new year groups. Your child will be able to spend the day taking part in a range of fun activities in their new spaces, with the adults who will support them next year and beyond. On this day, the aim is for your child to be able to explore and feel comfortable in their new spaces and with their new adults. There will also be team building, get-to-know-you activities and artwork creation to display in the environment, so that your child develops a sense of belonging within this space as we move into the holidays.

Specialist Activities

During the week of 8-12 July, your child will have the opportunity to spend some time in their new classroom and have their first specialist Creative Technology (Art and DT) sessions, all with their current Year 4 teacher! This is a fantastic opportunity, which will support your child in beginning to feel more comfortable in their space as well as become more familiar with some of the Year 5 and Year 6 teaching partners and wider support team.

How can you support your child in transitioning into Middle School?

Whilst we will continue to communicate important dates and events with your child, it would be helpful if you could also share the transition information with them, so they feel that both their school, parents and carers are working together throughout the transition process. To support you, we have created a child-friendly information pack for you to use overleaf.

We look forward to welcoming you to Coffee and Cake on Thursday 6 June and to the Coffee and Information Event on Wednesday 19 June, both being held in The Canteen.

If you are unable to make any of these sessions or would like more information, please contact the Middle School Office via koa.middleschool@clf.uk, or alternatively you can call on 0117 992 7128.

Kind Regards,



Emma Watts
Head of Middle School

KEY DATES

Term 6: Monday afternoons	Forest School
Thursday 6 June 2024: 3:20pm – 4:00pm	Cake and Coffee
Wednesday 19 June 2024: 3:20pm – 4:00pm	Coffee and Information
Wednesday 03 July 2024	Step-up-Day



Rolls-Royce



WORK HARD, BE KIND

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Welcome to Middle School!

Hello Year, 4s!

My name is Mrs Watts, and I will be your Head of School in September! Lots of you will know me already; those of you who do not, will do soon. I am extremely excited for you to join us on the Middle-School site, and I know lots of you feel this way too. However, most of you will feel a little nervous too – and that is ok! It is perfectly normal for us to feel a little anxious with change because it is full of unexpected – and as humans we like expected because it helps us feel safe. This is where our Emerald Power helps us!

Over the next couple of terms, we will be doing lots of fun activities together so that you are comfortable with everything that comes next year. This will help to make you feel safe and excited! So, let us start with looking at what will stay the same, what will be different and which adults you will get to know (and who will get to know you!) well by the time we get to September. There are two versions of this – one is quite short so that it will be quick for you to look at. The other includes much more information so you may prefer your adult to share this with you or you may be able to take a few days to read a little at a time.

Once you have read the information, you might have some questions. I would love to receive any notes or questions from you as this will help me to support you. Please write your note or question on a piece of paper with your name and class. If you give this to the office, they will make sure that they find their way to me.

I look forward to seeing you very soon.

Mrs Watts



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What will stay the same?

Your parents/carers will still be able to take you to your classroom door. They are also able to leave you at the gate, or you might even begin to walk to school by yourself towards the end of Year 5 or in Year 6. It is completely your family's choice as to what you (and they!) feel ready for and comfortable with.



You will still have your own class teacher. This is important: they get to know you well and ensure that you get just the support you need to grow as an individual and as part of our Year 5 team.

You will still learn in the same way, following the same curriculum (just Year 5 not Year 4!) - Mrs Watts, Miss Cerepanova and all our Primary-Phase Teachers work closely to ensure this.



The way behaviour is supported is the same. You learn how to be the best learner you can be by using our gems (and you have gem time every week!); you still have warnings to remind you to make the right choice and you can still take time out and use a partner class to support you in re-setting behaviour. You will also still have assemblies to learn about our school values (Work Hard, Be Kind) and to celebrate your learning and use of Gem Powers.



Your teachers are good at ensuring that the opportunities that Lower School children have, you will have as well. This means that you will not 'miss out' on experiences that you would access on the Lower Site.



Support that your class teacher currently uses to support you will continue to be used and reviewed as it is currently (e.g. wobble cushions, ear defenders, gem charts, reward times, fiddle support etc.).

You will still have playtimes with primary-aged children only. Year 5 and Year 6 have break and lunchtimes at a different time than Years 7-11.



Your toilets will still be for primary-aged children only – we have our own in B-Block. We also access the lovely new canteen toilets at breaktimes and lunchtimes, which are supervised by a member of staff.

You still wear the same uniform, apart from you will have a sky-blue polo shirt.



Your classrooms will look similar to your current learning space – they have walls, interactive screens and displays which support you in your learning.

You will still have your own peg inside your classroom, and you will still have your own drawer.



You will still have a reading record, which your home adults will use to let your teacher know how you are doing in your reading at home. They can write a little bit or a lot!

You will still have homework. The focus of your homework will just shift slightly more onto English and Maths. This will always be practice for something that you have already done in class.



You continue to use Accelerated Reader to track your progress and identify which level books to read.

You will still use Times Table Rockstars to develop your times table knowledge. It would be helpful if you could use this lots this term to support you in being ready for Year 5.



You still have iPads in your classrooms. We use these for a range of activities – from interventions, to research, to rewards, to gem time!

If you use the *Nessy Reading Intervention*, you will continue to do so; where appropriate, you will continue to access interventions in Reading, Writing and Maths.



What will change?



You will have increased access to subject specialists and specialist areas of the school, such as in Art, DT and PE. Our Year 5s and Year 6s enjoy visiting other specialist areas of the school, for example the IT rooms, Science Labs, and Music Rooms to enhance their learning provision. This supports in developing a passion for a wider range of subject areas.



You will be able to access a wider range of extra-curricular clubs in Year 5, as you are able to choose to join some of the older children, when you are ready. Clubs that some of our Years 5 and 6 have attended this year include gardening, art, table tennis, football, Warhammer, and homework, along with clubs held by Sporting Chance and Teddy Bears!



You will be able to use the lovely canteen at lunchtimes. In our canteen, you use your fingerprint to get your food (it is very clever!). You also choose where you would like to sit. Cups and water are available – you collect these yourself. We work hard to grow our Diamond and Ruby Powers in the canteen, making sure no-one is eating alone and putting our own trays, plates, and any rubbish away! When the weather becomes a little warmer, you are also able to choose to enjoy using our outside dining area to have picnics together if you would like to.



You will have a different play-space! There is a large space where we play football; an area for quiet, calm play and a covered area with benches for those who would like to chill, read, draw, or play games. There are also lots of bushes around for those of you who enjoy playing hide-and-seek, tag, and imaginative games! The library is available for you to use at break and at lunchtime: you can read, colour, play with Lego, create with beads, challenge each other to a game of cards or develop your own lunchtime club with Mrs Cox (our librarian). Some children also choose to complete their home learning during this time.

You will have a Reading Lesson in the library every week, where you will be able to enjoy reading from our wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books.



Some children will be able to access The Hub and/or Miss Jackson's BOXALL sessions. These are special spaces where identified children go to be supported in their learning or emotions. These areas have fairy lights, sensory aids and Miss Jackson's room even has an outside area!