

*In the current climate of infection transmission and control, we are currently considering our approach to varying aspects of school life, such as school trips and uniform policy. Further clarity and updates will be provided throughout the year.*



# BARNARD CASTLE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## WELCOME TO YEAR 4 GUIDE FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS 2020-2021

## Introduction

Welcome to Year 4 at Barnard Castle Prep School. A new year offers new opportunities and I hope you are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable year.

There will be plenty to do both in and out of the classroom as well as new trips to go on and new friends to make.

In this booklet there is some information to help guide you along the way. However, don't hesitate to ask any of the teachers for any help that you may need.

Have a great time.

Laura Turner  
Headmistress



## Class Teacher

Mrs Small and Mrs Killeen are the Year 4 Class Teachers and they will teach you most of the time. You will have different teachers for some lessons each week and will be given your timetable at the start of the term. If there is anything you are not sure about or if you have any questions or problems, please talk to your class teacher who will be able to help you. You will see your class teacher each morning and also for class time at the end of each day. Any children who are new to the school will be assigned a 'buddy' for the first few days to help them to find their way around and get to know people.

When you join Year 4 we will work with you to develop your independence in all areas of school life. Within the classroom the five key areas we will help you build upon are collaboration, perseverance, questioning/curiosity and resilience. In this way you will be asked to work together across the year group to answer the questions that are set by both us as teachers, and you as pupils. We encourage you to carry out daily tasks independently and take responsibility for your learning. This is a journey that we will take together and respond to failures along the way.

Outside of the classroom we expect you to try new things and take risks. We would like you to not rely upon your parents to keep you and your belongings organised, for example, coming up the path to the classroom, packing your own bag, knowing what your prep is and speaking to the teachers when you have any concerns.

No one is perfect and we know that we will all make mistakes. In Year 4 we thrive upon these opportunities to learn and have fun.



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## Homework

In Year 4 you will get homework most evenings. This helps you to remember work covered in class and also extends your learning. You should be able to complete the homework set in 20-30 minutes. We also expect everyone to read at home regularly – ideally for at least 10 minutes every day.

If you find a task difficult, please do as much as you can and leave the rest. Talk to your class teacher about it the next day and ask your parent or house parent to put a note in your Prep Diary. Do not worry if this happens; sometimes tasks that seem easy in class may appear more difficult when you get home.



## Prep Diaries

These are really important for organising your busy Year 4 life! Each day you should write any homework tasks, special events or music lessons in your diary. Your class teacher may also write notes in there for you and your parents, and your parents can write their own questions or comments in too. Don't forget to show your class teacher if your parents have written a note in your diary.

Prep Diaries should be signed every weekend and then handed in to your class teacher every Monday morning. A well-kept Prep Diary is a really easy way to earn merits for your House.

## Merits

You will already know which House you belong to. There are four Houses:

Drake  
Gilbert  
Grenville  
Raleigh



You earn merits (points) for your House through hard work and by following The Barney Way. The points are added up at the end of each term and the Merit Shield is awarded to the House with the most points.

A demerit may be given for thoughtless behaviour, which means that one point is taken away from your House's points. You can earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Merit Certificates by gaining merits each term.

# Something on your mind?

If you are worried or upset, you can talk to:-

- Any of your teachers
- Mrs Morse, the School Nurse or the School Counsellor, Mrs Thirling
- Your parents or your friends
- School's Independent Listener, call 07817 484818
- ChildLine, call 0800 11 11

To make a complaint, speak to your class teacher, the Deputy Head or the Headmistress or any member of the Junior Boarding staff for boarders.

# Activities

Activities take place in the school day at break time, lunch time and after school. These are delivered by staff during the school day and after school, as well as external teachers and coaches. A booklet which contains all the information about activities will be emailed to your parents before the start of each term. You should chat to your parents about which clubs you would like to sign up for, and your parents will then complete the online form for you before the start of term.

Once you have started an activity, you are expected to attend every week until the end of term and to give your apologies to the member of staff running the club if you cannot attend.



## Trips and Residentials

In Year 4, we have the opportunity to go on many trips. In the Michaelmas Term we will visit a site to support our work on the Romans in History. In the Lent Term we will be going to The Centre for Life in Newcastle for a workshop as part of our Science topic. In the Trinity Term we will be going on an overnight residential to The Gibside Stables, near Rowlands Gill. Here we will work on our team building and communication skills.



## Fixtures

If you are selected to play in a team, your name will appear on a team sheet, displayed on the sports noticeboard outside the Atkinson Hall, with all the details of the match and the kit you will need. These details can also be found on the SchoolSports website. You will need to write all the details in your Prep Diary for your parents and remember to be organised on the day.

## Uniform

Your appearance is important. Prep School pupils should be smartly dressed in the correct school uniform and sports kit. Girls must wear their hair tied back if it is shoulder length or longer and boys should have short hair. School shoes should be black and regularly polished. Jewellery should not be worn, with the exception that girls may wear a single small plain stud in the lobe of each ear. You may be required to remove these for safety reasons during games, etc.

On occasion, items of uniform can get mixed up or misplaced, therefore please could you ***ensure that all items are clearly labelled.*** The lost property basket is located outside Mrs Morse's office should any items of clothing be misplaced.



## Year 4 Play

Year 4 take a leading role in the play in the Lent Term. All children will have a speaking part and all will act and sing on the stage. In this term we will practise during English lessons and after school. It will be lots of fun with super songs and dances to learn.



### Equipment for Year 4

#### Everyday items

You will need a named pencil case containing the following equipment: a pencil, ruler, a highlighter pen, rubber and pencil sharpener, coloured pencils, Pritt stick.

#### Swimming

Towel, navy swimming costume or navy swimming trunks, white swimming cap (girls), goggles (optional).

#### PE

School crested PE shorts (for boys), school crested Games skort or lycras (for girls), House T-shirt, short white socks, indoor and outdoor trainers, School tracksuit.

#### Games

Towel, school rugby/hockey shirt, navy rugby shorts/skort, school Games socks, school tracksuit, cricket whites (for boys), football/rugby boots (for boys - kite marked studs), outdoor trainers (for girls), indoor trainers for wet weather, mouthguard, shin pads.

*You will need to bring your PE and swimming kit to school every Monday and Friday.*





BARNARD CASTLE  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# The Barney Way

Be kind

Be polite

Be smart

Be organised

Be respectful