

AZBUKA School

## **Year 4 and 5 teaching and learning arrangements – Autumn 2022**

### **Преподавание в 4 и 5 классах – осень 2022**

*From:*

Maria Gavrilova

Paul Hume

Heads of curriculum

Svetlana Malinina

TO: parents of Year 4 and Year 5

*Dear parents,*

In the past few days the school had to make a decision to merge the smallest year groups. This was dictated by the final admission numbers and it is a temporary measure until we have few more children in each class (Year 4 and Year 5)

The admission cycle for 2022-2023 ended on the 31st August. We still have few children who are waiting to join, but unable to start this Autumn for a number of reasons (mainly immigration delays).

Merging classes and year groups is a standard practice in many small schools in the UK (including those with much larger numbers).

Such decisions are made by the school to maximise teaching and learning while addressing temporary challenges in numbers.

You normally need a critical number of children to make the process purposeful, socially, and academically, especially in KS 1 and lower KS2.

Please note that over the years our children have been learning together during school day in the context of many lessons, including World around Us, languages, ICT, Arts, science.

Please also note that Year 4 and Year 5 children combined is only a very small class (5) and the teachers still will be able to give an unprecedented level of attention and quality of provision to both groups and individually which was once again highly commended in the latest summer visit and report of the governor.

We would also like to confirm that the Year 4 and Year 5 will follow their own curriculum aims and objectives while benefiting from joint work in the context of the lesson.

Finally, we have retained another TA/Intervention teacher who will be working alongside the lead teachers to support the delivery of different curriculum aims.

The lead teachers are also heads of curriculum at Azbuka – in both Russian and English sections.

Please read below some key points regarding this arrangement.

**Key points regarding Mixed Year Groups:**

- **Maths.** Children will be taught according to their own stage and curriculum aims with the help of the additional teacher.
- **English and Russian.** Children will all be working broadly to one theme or sometime a book, but the curriculum aims and objectives, and skills level will be differentiated for as per our curriculum document and assessment policy.
- **World around us.** Children might be working broadly to one topic, but the curriculum aims and objectives, and skills level will be differentiated for as per our assessment policy. This will be like the current Science programme and lesson format and similar to our Bilingual Assessment Project, where children from Year 1 to 6 had to produce work at their own level while engaging in the same Topic (“Climate Change”).
- **Other subjects:** this will continue as normal – either together with the other year group/s or as their own Year 4 and 5 class.
- **Homework** will be prepared for the different groups.

**Some other useful points and benefits of this arrangement:**

- Smaller groups have the opportunity to be taught the skills that they are missing or the extension that they require while others pursue independent inquiry.
- Mixed stages of very small year groups will be able to engage in discussions and learn from each other as all children have strengths and areas for development – in both academic, language and creative domains.
- Older students then become models for the younger ones (which can push them further) and younger students
- Remember that learning occurs individually, in separate groups, and as a whole class. Engaged students will learn whether the class is structured by age, grade, ability, or as a mixed-year class.

*We hope this detailed letter has clarified the main points for the Year 4 and 5 teaching and learning arrangement.*

*We are happy to address any of your further concerns and answer the additional questions in person.*

*Kind regards*