



**FARLINGTON**

Prep School

## PRE-PREP CURRICULUM

Our pupils experience a broad and balanced curriculum, with careful planning for continuity and progress that takes individual differences into account.

The Pre-prep curriculum focuses on the building blocks of learning: reading and writing, mathematics and learning skills. The curriculum is designed to foster an interest beyond the curriculum and to develop a love of learning, at an early age.

### **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS) - Reception Year**

All planning is based around the EYFS Statutory Framework, incorporating structured play activities, focused tasks and teacher interaction as well as the many opportunities for independent, child initiated learning.

Close observations are made of each child, recording successes and significant steps in the three prime areas of learning: personal, social and emotional development; communication and language; and physical development and the four specific areas of learning: literacy; mathematics; expressive arts and design; and understanding the world.

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

We encourage independence and develop personal skills: for example, dressing and undressing and using cutlery correctly.

We provide children with the skills to interact with others, sharing and taking turns. The school aims to develop moral education and make children aware of many cultures.

We promote positive behaviour and work in close partnership with parents and carers.

- **Communication and Language**

The skills of communication (speaking and listening) are developed along with sound and letter knowledge, early reading and writing, through a wide range of planned and independent activities.

- **Physical Development**

We seek to improve all pupils' skills in co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement throughout all the areas of learning. In addition, an emphasis on healthy lifestyles - personal hygiene, food choices and keeping active- is encouraged. Reception children swim each week along with pupils in Preps 1 and 2 (see below).

- **Literacy**

When children have gained the knowledge and skills to use sounds and letters, words and books will be sent home for practice. Pre-reading skills and book knowledge are reinforced and a wide variety of texts is read to the children, also available for them to enjoy for themselves, in class and within the Pre-prep library. Various reading schemes are used, but initial sounds and blends are taught through Jolly Phonics. This is continued throughout the Key Stage, also incorporating "Jolly Grammar": writing and spelling skills are fully integrated in this.

- **Mathematics**

We help children understand and use numbers efficiently and develop their mental number skills, with counting practice of everyday objects encouraged at home too. Playing number games and talking about numbers and shapes they see around them helps consolidate understanding.

- **Understanding of the World**

All children are encouraged to think, reason, experiment and investigate. There are many opportunities to explore with a “hands on” approach.

Construction kits and other materials are used to develop ideas and create models. In addition, children are taught skills and develop methods of joining, cutting, designing, planning and making their ideas. Basic computer skills are taught to allow children to enjoy and complete programs designed to enhance their learning. We encourage exploration of the immediate environment to gain knowledge and understanding of the world around us. The children experience and celebrate activities linked to a variety of faiths and cultures.

- **Expressive arts and design**

The curriculum is rich in provision for expression, curiosity, questioning and imaginative play.

Children feel secure enough to be adventurous and “have a go”. We provide sufficient time for children to develop and finish working through their ideas across all curriculum areas. We hope to cultivate self-expression through art, music, role play and movement.

## **KEY STAGE 1: Preps 1 and 2**

The curriculum is taught through discrete subjects and also linked topics. Subject specialists teach music, French and sport to the pupils, with all other subjects delivered by Class Teachers. Differentiated tasks ensure that challenge levels are high, but appropriate to each learner.

### **ENGLISH**

Based on the National Curriculum, a phonic approach is used in the teaching of reading, drawing on schemes such as Jolly Phonics, to make learning engaging and interactive. For pupils who find grasping the basics difficult, the Read-Write-Inc. programme is also used, to support progress. Teaching Assistants and older pupils are involved in hearing pupils read, with parents also encouraged to listen daily to their child. Daily quiet reading sessions give pupils time to enjoy books of all kinds.

### **MATHEMATICS**

With a focus on the basic four rules of number and mental mathematics too, ideas are reinforced in highly practical ways, using a variety of resources. By the end of Key Stage 1, many pupils will have mastered their 2x, 5x and 10x tables. Most will have secure number bonds to 10 and 100. Shape, space and measure activities are designed to encourage a problem-solving approach and develop reasoning skills.

### **SCIENCE**

Pupils develop a passion for learning about and understanding the world around them. Carrying out practical investigations enhances this further. The curriculum is supported by exciting trips too, such as Prep 1's visit to Sea Life in Brighton. Topics are based on the National Curriculum, with Prep 1 learning about recognizing and naming plants, everyday materials, animals, the human body, sense and seasonal changes. Prep 2 discover the difference between living and non-living, what animals needs, keeping healthy, growing seeds and bulbs,

habitats and food chains and changing materials.

#### TOPIC

Geography and History work is often taught in a themed, topic-based way. Emphasis is also placed on research skills such as ordering and presenting information in lively ways. Trips and visiting speakers bring learning to life.

#### FOREST SCHOOL

The highlight of the week for many pupils is their visit to our Forest School site, where they learn about the outdoors, whilst in the outdoors. Many social skills are also promoted through this exciting and innovative approach to learning. Pupils go outdoors whatever the weather and wellingtons and waterproofs are essential equipment.

#### MUSIC and DRAMA

Working towards a joint Nativity in the Autumn Term, pupils learn songs that narrate the Christmas story, with our youngest pupils often playing the part of the stable animals, and Prep 2 pupils performing lead roles.

Pupils also learn the basics of the violin, recorder, cello and keyboards during their curriculum music, with those showing a particular aptitude encouraged to take up instrumental lessons with one of our peripatetic teachers. Many pupils choose Speech and Drama as an extra activity.

#### PSHCE

The curriculum is divided into three broad areas: relationships, the wider world, health and wellbeing. Children learn to share and to listen and respect others, whilst exploring their feelings and emotions and viewpoints. Topics covered include rules, trying something new and keeping safe.

#### COMPUTERS

Weekly computer sessions in Key Stage 1 allow pupils to gain familiarity and to practise their keyboard skills. They carry out simple coding activities, alongside word processing, touch typing and graphic skills.

#### FRENCH

French is taught by our dedicated Prep MFL teacher, using songs, stories, highly interactive resources and digital technologies. Communication is key and whenever possible, pupils are taught in the target language. Weekly lessons take place in Reception, as well as Preps 1 and 2.

#### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

In Prep 2, the major world faiths are discussed in RS lessons: Christianity, Judaism and Islam, along with discovery about their sacred texts. Prep 1 learning centres on major festivals, places of worship and personalised themes, such as belonging.

#### ART

Weekly art sessions allow pupils to produce paintings, collage and other 3-d work. The curriculum also looks at various artists, often linking these to topic work in other areas.

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION and SWIMMING

Being physically active whilst enjoying the beautiful outdoors as often as possible is an important part of the children's' week, but they also have two PE sessions where coordination and skills are

nurtured. Weekly swimming takes place, year round, at Billingshurst Leisure Centre. Extra-curricular activities provide opportunities for further active pursuits, such as tennis, ballet and judo.

#### HOMEWORK

Daily reading and weekly spelling tests in Preps 1 and 2 are the basis of homework, but additional, weekend tasks are set from time to time. Children are encouraged to develop their interests further by finding out more at home, bringing in books and artefacts to share with others.

#### EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Our curriculum is considerably enhanced by the wide range of extra-curricular activities and the broad provision of extension opportunities offered to pupils, including sports fixtures, visits, field trips and many after school clubs.

**For further and more detailed information, termly Curriculum Overviews are available to parents via the Prep Office.**



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