

ABINGDON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

a day in the life of Year 3 (age 7+)



The day starts for many of us with a trip to School in the minibus. The minibuses collect us from a wide area including North Oxford, Witney and Dorchester. The previous night's activities are recounted, match results predicted, homework sympathised with and up and coming events eagerly anticipated.

We get to school in time for registration at 8.30am and then, depending on which day it is, we might have hymn practice or assembly. Assemblies are fun. In some of the Lower School assemblies we read our poems and the stories we have written or tell the others about topics we are researching in lessons. Today we talked about Holocaust Memorial Day and we read out poems we had written.

Lessons begin at 8.45am. This could be phonics which we have most mornings. We are in groups depending on the stage we are at so we mix with friends from the other class, which is really nice. There are two classes in our year with up to 18 boys in each. It's great because the class is small so we get to know everybody really well but when you put both forms together there are enough of us to sing in choir, perform plays and have team games. We all play in teams and it doesn't matter how good you are, everyone plays if they want to and we all have matches against other schools and the other house teams.

After our first lesson, on Tuesdays we have double science which is really fun as we do experiments. Last week we were using light meters to measure light around the School. When we move on to Year 4 we have science in the School's science lab and we get to use all the equipment including data loggers and the digital microscope. You do all sorts of fun things in science; it's one of our favourite subjects.

At 10.45am, after three lessons, it's time for break and a snack. Fridays are special as it's our day for the 'big adventure' which means we get to play on the adventure playground which has slides, rings and bridges. We can't go on the adventure playground everyday as we have to rotate with the other classes so it's really good fun when it's our day. We also have an enormous sandpit and an area for ball games. There's lots of space to play in and if you don't fancy ball games there is the quad where you can go if you are feeling quiet or tired or into the garden area where you can just sit or read which is nice in the summer.

Once a week we have morning break in the library so it's an extra chance to look at the books. We go to the library most days as we change our books as often as we like. The librarian and our teachers help us to choose and there are loads of books about everything you can think of.



At 11.05am lessons start again until 12.15pm. We have maths everyday and our teacher gives us work according to how easy or difficult we find it and sometimes we will work with boys from the other class. If we are finding a topic hard then we can get help from our teacher or a special teacher who works with small groups to check we understand everything.

We have two lessons before lunch. We've been learning French since Year 2 and we have set lessons but we also speak and do dates and times in French. We have a French teacher who talks to us in French all the time even if you are just in the lunch queue and we reply in French. It's strange at first but you soon get used to it!

Amongst our most popular lessons are art, CDT and ICT. You get to make some really good things in CDT; so far we have made pneumatic monsters, kaleidoscopes, photo frames and marble runs. In ICT we are learning to email and we have a partner at Marcham Primary School and we use email to work on a project together. We are writing poems with our partners which we will present to our parents.

Lunchtime soon arrives and it's the best part of the day. It is long enough to have lunch, play and do a club or activity. Lunch is cooked at school and there is always a choice of main course, vegetables, salad and really good puddings. The food changes everyday and our favourites are pasta, lamb casserole and dumplings. We eat lunch with our friends and then we do a club which could be anything from music, choir, eco, arts and crafts or dance.

At 1.30pm the bell goes and it's off to lessons again. This could be geography, history, art, swimming, CDT or the performing arts which include music and drama. We have a fantastic art

room where you can do ceramics, printing or drawing and painting. There is always a lot going on with music and drama and if you play an instrument you can take part in monthly recitals at School and in concerts to parents. During our time in Middle School we will also perform in a big drama production which takes weeks of practice and can involve singing and dancing as well. It's hard work but you are really glad when you've done it!

On Tuesdays and Thursdays we do games outside and depending on the term this could be tag-rugby, football or cricket. We can also do PE in the sports hall. There are loads of other sports like fencing, judo, swimming and junior hockey and some sports have specialist teachers and take place in clubs after school.

At 2.40pm it's last break and time for another run around before the last two lessons of the day. Sometimes we have visitors who come to see us; they could be writers or artists and have done interesting things. We also have lots of trips during the year with the pantomime, the Discovery Centre and the Roald Dahl museum amongst our favourites.

Lessons finish at 4.10pm and we can get the minibus home but often we stay until 5.15pm if we want to go to a club. This term, we have the choice of Warhammer, clay club, fencing, judo, junior hockey, drama or swimming so there is always something to do. If we can't get picked up then we can also stay in after-school care until 6pm.

So it's the end of the day and we head home. We do have a bit of homework but it's not too bad, there's usually reading and some writing or maths and it doesn't take more than half an hour and it can be quite fun!

