

# ABINGDON PREPARATORY SCHOOL



## Pre-prep: Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

### Welcome to Pre-prep

Pre-prep is where it all begins and a good start is the key to life-long learning. Children join Pre-prep curious about everything and with an enormous ability to absorb, question and explore. Our teaching and learning environment is wholly focused on encouraging this, we feed their natural enthusiasm to promote happy, confident learning.

We appreciate that starting school is as big a step for parents as it is for their children so we make it as easy as possible for everyone. We have an 'open door' policy, if there are any concerns or questions – just get in touch.

Many parents ask us what they can do to help their child prepare for starting school so we meet in the summer before they join Reception. It's an opportunity for everyone to begin to get to know each other and we discuss what to expect, ways to help and explain logistics. For Reception the start to school is staggered for the first few weeks of term so everyone has a gentle introduction.

### The Curriculum

The Early Years Framework is followed in Reception which encourages child-initiated learning in a free-flow environment. The National Curriculum is the basis for Years 1 and 2. Core subjects are English, Maths, Science, the humanities, Art, CDT, PSHE, Sport and RE. The class teacher takes the majority of the lessons with the help of a teaching assistant and there are specialist teachers for Science, ICT, CDT, French, Swimming, Sport and Music. Boys in Years 1 and 2 enjoy plenty of opportunities to learn skills not covered by the curriculum through enrichment activities which cover a wide range of topics from touch typing and construction to 'movers and groovers'.



### A Typical School Day

- 8.45am** Registration and assembly; Lessons – Maths and English (including daily Phonics)
- 10.45am** Playtime – adventure playground, woods, playing fields and sand pit
- 11.05am** Lessons – Science, French, Music, CDT, ICT, Sport
- 12.15pm** Lunch
- 1.30pm** Topic/creative learning – Art, humanities and enrichment activities
- 2.45pm** Playtime
- 3.00pm** Story
- 3.35pm** Home or Club



Class sizes are small and progress is carefully monitored with a parents' evening and report each term. There is lots of learning outside the classroom, with a plethora of trips and events to enjoy from Warwick Castle and the Cotswold Wildlife Park to the pantomime. We have an outdoor classroom for Reception, a Forest School and full use of the School's excellent facilities.

### The Other Half

Abingdon Prep prides itself on its extra-curricular or Other Half activities and Pre-prep is no exception. From 3.35pm every day Years 1 and 2 have the option to take part in a club which could be Swimming, Rugby, Green Gang, Karate or Tennis. Our Forest School provides opportunities to explore the natural environment and there is plenty of drama, sport and music. The majority of children take up a musical instrument in Pre-prep and there is the Nativity, class assemblies and a summer concert for everyone to take part in and for parents to enjoy. Sport is tailored to Pre-prep with swimming each week and the core sports of rugby, football and cricket adapted to suit the age-group.



### Pastoral Care

Pre-prep is a dedicated area within school and the staff get to know the children quickly, forming close ties with them and their families. The class teacher is the principal contact between school and home. Good behaviour and respect for others are taught from the outset. Teachers share a hot lunch, which is cooked in school, with their class making sure of a balanced diet and rewarding good table manners. There are three break times during the day and we have acres of space to play including an adventure playground, woods and a garden.



### Wrap-around care

Drop-off is between 8.15am and 8.30am and the school day finishes at 3.35pm when children go home or to a club. There is after-school care until 6pm although most Pre-prep children find this a long day, especially when starting school, and we prefer them to have a shorter day if possible.

### Homework

This is gradually introduced in Pre-prep and is based around 'fun activities' to consolidate learning.

**Reception** – phonics sounds and reading books

**Years 1 and 2** – maths activity, phonics, spellings, reading



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