

NURSERY & PRE-PREP



**ST EDMUND'S  
SCHOOL**  
CANTERBURY

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## ST EDMUND'S WOODLAND NURSERY & PRE-PREP

At St Edmund's Nursery & Pre-Prep we inspire children from the ages of 3 to 7 years old to love learning, be creative in everything they do, and be considerate of others. We pride ourselves on having small class sizes and well qualified and dynamic staff. Our classrooms are light, airy and well equipped providing plenty of space for young children to play, learn and be inspired.

The staff have high expectations and are ambitious for our pupils providing a kind, caring and supportive environment in which their confidence can grow and their talents thrive. Learning here is dynamic, varied and fun, with children encouraged to be active in lessons – responding to challenges and solving problems. We provide flexibility for parents by having wrap around care from 7.30am until 6.00pm for 50 weeks a year. This out of school hours' provision is run by Pre-Prep staff that the children know well on the Pre-Prep site.

We also have a Forest School within the Pre-Prep where the children follow a focussed programme of sessions, involving challenging but achievable tasks which are planned to enrich the curriculum through woodland adventure. These sessions focus on developing and encouraging an appreciation and respect for the environment, whilst learning important skills such as working with others, negotiating skills, handling risks and using their own initiative to solve problems.

### ACADEMIC

In Nursery and Pre-Prep, teaching follows, but is not limited to, the Early Years Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum. English and Mathematics are taught daily using a variety of approaches including practical tasks, written exercises, problem solving and interactive games. Reading is of prime importance, and we work to both develop fluent reading skills and inspire a love of reading.

We take a topic-based approach to covering many areas of the curriculum – for example, Science, Geography, History, Art, Design & Technology and ICT; and all children including Nursery receive specialist teaching in Music, Dance and PE. In addition, from Reception onwards the children have French lessons. We also want our children to develop the confidence to show their skills in front of others, which they do through 'show and tell' sessions, termly drama workshops, poetry recitals, music festivals, Nativity plays and end of term Chapel services.

Sport is a very important part of Pre-Prep life. We want all children to be active, and sport gives them the opportunity to learn new skills and grow in confidence, whilst having fun. Children are taught by specialists and use the school's excellent facilities, including the all-weather pitch, sports hall and playing fields.

### PASTORAL

Each and every child in Pre-Prep should feel happy and secure, and we work hard to ensure this happens in a positive and friendly environment in which everyone is valued. Every child has his or her own unique personality, interests and abilities.

From their very first day with us, teachers work closely with children to learn all about them so they can develop their passions and talents, and explore new possibilities. Teachers really get to know each child and provide the encouragement and support that they need.

Some children require extra support in their learning during their time in Pre-Prep. This might be due, for example, to being

gifted and talented, or dyslexic, or having speech and language difficulties. Early intervention ensures the best outcome for each child, with support provided by our experienced Additional Educational Needs (AEN) teachers. AEN teachers work closely with staff and parents, with a focus on the sharing of information and ideas, and on continuity as children move between year groups and parts of the school.

Our aim is that every child should take pride in their own achievements, whilst respecting the needs of others, their own and other people's possessions, and their environment.

We place particular emphasis, therefore, on interpersonal skills – especially courtesy and consideration.

### CO-CURRICULAR

We look beyond the National Curriculum for educational stimulation, and we ensure that Pre-Prep children can enjoy activities such as clubs, trips and access to specialist teachers.

Clubs allow children to develop new talents and skills, and to extend their interest in a curriculum subject. Taking place at lunchtimes and after school, we offer clubs such as archery, Spanish, recorders, sports, yoga, Lego, country dancing and art. Clubs are run by staff, with the exception of martial arts which is led externally.

We use trips to extend and develop topic learning by making use of the rich history of Canterbury – visiting landmarks, shops and museums – and also going further afield to places such as Leeds Castle, Quex Park and the Museum of Kent Life.

Each term the Pre-Prep organises themed events such as a French Day, Arts Week, Technology Week or Poetry Week. Guests are invited into school to talk to and work with the children. They particularly enjoy their termly sessions with Kic Theatre, our lively visiting drama professional who makes our topics and stories come alive. We also use the specialist expertise of teaching staff from the Junior and Senior Schools, and visit the Science Department on a regular basis to take part in and observe experiments and investigations linked to our topics.