



Chigwell School

PRE PREP

AGE 4 - 7



“Children’s happiness and well-being are held in highest priority and central to all EYFS practice within a vibrant, welcoming environment.”

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL INSPECTORATE

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF PRE PREP

I am immensely proud of the Pre Prep, its staff, pupils and families, and all that we achieve in creating an outstanding learning environment

The Pre Prep is many things. It is a place of learning with high academic expectations and achievement, a place where pupils work incredibly hard, a place of variety and security and, very importantly, a place of happiness and fun. Sitting at the very heart of the School’s site, it is a place where our youngest Chigwellians begin their educational journey in a safe and nurturing community, and where they can experience all the simple joys of childhood. Inspired by highly skilled and passionate teachers, they begin to learn and apply the Chigwell values.

The Pre Prep is unique in that it stands alone in a beautiful environment but has the advantage of being part of a very successful Junior and Senior School. We offer children all the benefits of a small infant school, whilst at the same time providing exceptional resources, which are only available because we are also part of a larger, all-through school.

We consider it a privilege to be trusted with the responsibility of educating a young child. We have dreams and aspirations for each child in our care and strive to provide them with an exceptionally stable education.

It is always a pleasure meeting new families, and we can assure you that when you arrive at the Pre Prep you will experience a welcome from us all which invites you and your child to be part of a very special community.



Mrs Evelyn Gibbs B.A. N.P.Q.H. P.G.C.E.
Head of Pre Prep
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WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF PRE PREP

VALUES AND AIMS

In the Pre Prep, our principle aims are to:

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Ensure that every child is happy and enjoys a stimulating, challenging and rewarding learning experience.

Our teachers understand how young children develop and learn, and we appreciate the importance that play has in their young lives. With access to 100-acres of learning space, our outdoor provision is outstanding, and participation in afterschool activities offers a lively and interesting dimension to life at Chigwell School.

Guide and instruct our pupils in life skills.

Enabling them to lead confident, healthy and independent lives. We provide exemplary pastoral support to pupils and ensure that pupils feel recognised as individuals.

Provide a first-class academic experience and a rounded education, enriched through active learning opportunities and activities both within and outside the classroom.

We give children the time and resources they need to explore, manipulate, discover and practise newly acquired skills. In common with the Junior and Senior School, we place great emphasis not just on academic subjects, but also on music, singing and drama. During their time in the Pre Prep, all pupils will experience the joy of participating in concerts and assemblies.

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Develop enthusiastic learners who enjoy coming to school, who are confident, friendly, polite and well-mannered, creative and intellectually curious.

Instilling the right attitudes towards learning is the key to success, both in terms of happiness and academic success. A child's attitude to learning can influence their whole experience of education and have significant effects on their overall levels of attainment. Therefore, it is important that we foster positive attitudes during the early years of school.

Prepare our pupils for life at the Junior School and beyond.

Pre Prep pupils leave as confident children ready for the next steps of their learning journey. The Pre Prep works in partnership with the Junior School to provide a seamless transition.

Fully integrate pupils and their families into the established traditions and life at Chigwell School.

Our relationship with our families is one of our greatest strengths and when families join the Pre Prep they also become part of the whole Chigwell family.

DELIVERING A RICH CURRICULUM

Our teachers are highly skilled, inspirational and passionate about teaching young infant children

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They provide Pre Prep pupils with a developmentally appropriate and rich learning environment, using both progressive and more traditional teaching models.

The Pre Prep's curriculum incorporates all the requirements of the National Curriculum in Year 1 and 2 and the Early Years Foundations Stage (EYFS) in Reception, supported by an extensive range of academic enrichment opportunities.

We place great emphasis on academic achievement, while, at the same time, ensuring our pupils are well-rounded and prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Teachers create learning tasks that are interactive, appropriately challenging, purposeful and connect to pupils' interest. Our teaching is tailored towards each child's unique skills and we support all pupils equally; whether they have exceptional ability and may need stretching, or if they find some areas of the work more difficult.

DEVELOPING A LOVE OF LEARNING
WHICH LASTS A LIFETIME

Above all, we want to ensure that, whatever their abilities and talents, our pupils meet their full potential and develop attitudes to learning which will last them a lifetime.

“My two daughters are so happy and literally bounce into school every day.

This is the most important thing as I believe when a child is happy you can teach them so much more.”

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LEARNING EXPERIENCE

State-of-the-art, purpose-built facilities which enrich the learning experience

- Six classrooms, each with doors leading to a covered outdoor learning area
- ICT suite
- Library
- Multipurpose hall and dining room
- Music room
- Science room
- Spacious playground
- Adventure play area
- The Fairy Garden
- Woodland classroom
- Nature area
- Access to the School’s extensive 100-acre site.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

Challenging, rewarding and exciting experiences

The Pre Prep places great emphasis on learning outside the classroom so that pupils are provided with enriching experiences.

We provide rich and varied contexts for pupils to acquire, develop and apply a broad range of knowledge, understanding and skills.

Pupils can expect to take part in many educational opportunities, including visits to museums, theatres and workshops, as well as benefiting from enrichment activities in school, such as themed days, visits by speakers, musical workshops and other performances.

CHAPEL

Pre Prep pupils attend chapel on a termly basis to celebrate special occasions and religious festivals.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

Holistic growth through play and exploration

Our inspirational outdoor learning programme takes place in the School's extensive grounds, including our own wooded classroom. These grounds provide an extension of the classroom experience and are used throughout the day by our children. Their learning is enhanced by a qualified and experienced 'forest school' teacher.

Regular visits to the wooded classroom give children the opportunity to learn new skills, take part in problem-solving activities and team-building challenges, and to work independently or as part of a small group or larger team.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

The Pre Prep is committed to providing all pupils with an exciting and enjoyable after-school extra-curricular programme

We offer a comprehensive range of after-school clubs across a broad spectrum of interests including art, sport, dance and science. Clubs reflect the expertise of the staff and the interests and enthusiasm of pupils.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The Pre Prep operates an extended day for parents who may want to leave their children before and after the school day

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In our optional breakfast and after-school sessions, children are cared for by members of staff and spend their time playing and taking part in a variety of activities.

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

Pre Prep parents are informed, engaged and supportive. We believe that a healthy partnership between home and school is vital in ensuring children reach their potential. Parents enjoy positive relationships with all members of staff and can expect regular feedback on their child's progress and level of attainment. Opportunities to participate in school life are many and varied. Every new parent is welcomed into the Chigwell community.



A seamless transition

When it is time for children to move on to the Junior School, the transition is planned seamlessly to ensure that children's needs are known and that they continue to be met in the best way possible.

“Mrs Gibbs works very hard to make sure it is part of the bigger school, bringing juniors over to read to the children, organising joint assemblies and events and running a buddy-system.”

CATERING AND MEDICAL

A lifetime of health and well-being starts at school

CATERING

We want our pupils to develop a positive experience of food at school so that they grow up with a healthy attitude not just towards mealtimes, but also towards their overall wellbeing. Our catering provider, Chartwells, is fully engaged with our young pupils and caters for a range of tastes, preferences and medically diagnosed conditions.

Our Pre Prep pupils are served freshly prepared food in their own dining hall. The Pre Prep’s Breakfast Club provides children with a healthy start to the day, and a light tea is served to pupils attending after-school clubs (and for those pupils remaining at school for extra-curricular activities).

Parents can feel confident that their children will enjoy tasty and appealing food that’s good for them.

MEDICAL

In the Pre Prep, pupils’ medical or first aid needs are looked after by staff, all of whom hold current Pediatric First Aid Certificates.

The Pre Prep has a dedicated and well-resourced First Aid room. However, staff at the School’s Medical Centre are available for advice and will attend the Pre Prep in emergency situations.

ADMISSIONS

The start of your child’s journey at Chigwell

ASSESSMENT

Admission to the Pre Prep is based on the outcome of an assessment which consists of pupil participation in a range of activities centred on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. These activities consist of number and literacy games, physical games, playing with other children, listening and responding to a story and joining in with singing or rhymes.

The assessment usually takes place in the Pre Prep library and lasts approximately 1½ hours. It is carefully designed to ensure children feel happy and settled. These sessions happen in the autumn term and children and their parents will be sent an allocated date and time after the closing date for registration.

Children attend and participate in the assessment as part of a group. Whilst parents are invited to wait nearby they are not able to accompany their child during the assessment process.

The Head of Pre Prep will informally meet with parents during the session.

The School does not provide verbal or written feedback. If, however, your child is not successful, and if in future years you feel that their ability has developed, we are always happy for them to sit an entrance examination at 7+ or 11+.

KEY DATES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Key dates including registration closing date, assessment sessions and acceptance dates are posted on our website.

Please find out more about Admissions at 4+ at: www.chigwell-school.org/admissions

REGISTRATION

To register your son or daughter for a place at the Pre Prep, please visit www.chigwell-school.org to complete the online registration form and pay the registration fee.



Chigwell School

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