



Chigwell School
PREP

AGE 7 - 11



“This is a school where minds can and do grow in the widest sense possible, where a happy mix of ages and cultures work together harmoniously.”

WELCOME TO PREP SCHOOL

We provide our children with the space to grow, not only as learners but also as people who will thrive in the modern world

As a school we give them the confidence to be themselves and to follow and develop their interests. Our teaching is excellent and our teachers are skilled not only in the classroom but also in providing the care and individual attention that the children need. Class sizes are small and this allows us to get to know the children as individuals and to adapt their education accordingly.

The curriculum is wide and evolving as we continue to adapt to the modern world. It is supported by excellent facilities, some of which we share with the Senior School. From the age of 7, our children do drama in the purpose-built drama centre, with their plays and assemblies in the theatre itself. They have science in the science labs with technical support, and learn their music in the Walde Music School.

Art, design and technology is a particular strength, taught in the Art Centre, and we have regular exhibitions of our children's work. Sport and PE are taught by specialist teachers and coaches, and with two games afternoons and regular fixtures against other schools; our children are active and engaged.

We expect our children to develop wider interests and our after-school clubs and activities are second to none. From board games, to Korfbal, to Stock Market club to Astronomy club, to sporting and musical and drama activities, we want them to taste a variety of activities to see what suits them best.

We are proud of what we achieve together here and would love to show you around. So please contact us to ask any questions or arrange a tour.



Mrs Evelyn Gibbs B.A. N.P.Q.H. P.G.C.E.
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CURRICULUM

Striving for the best academic results,
while making learning enjoyable

Our curriculum offers breadth and balance, with the goal of every child fulfilling their academic potential. It is also creative and seeks to broaden the experience of our children and to make them independent in approach and curious about the world around them.

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There is a core of English, mathematics and science. Here, we build in the key skills that our children need using the most up-to-date teaching methods to allow our pupils the opportunity to thrive. Where it is appropriate, our curriculum is linked to embed key skills within all the subjects and enable individual monitoring of our children’s progress.

We emphasise the importance of reading from an early age and have a Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) programme in the middle of our day. Literacy is also enhanced by use of our Prep School library and we have visiting authors, speakers and a reading programme.

Our curriculum is therefore broad and enables our children to taste a wide variety of subjects but also allows them to build in the key skills that they will need later. It is supported throughout by the additional experiences of workshops, exhibitions, theatre groups, museums, performances, plays and concerts that bring the learning alive.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is taught using a mastery approach and embedded throughout our curriculum. Termly assessments monitor our pupils’ progress in English and mathematics, and support is given when needed.

HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, PSHE,
DRAMA AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

History, geography, PSHE, drama and religious studies are taught as separate subjects and the topics taught are enhanced through trips and workshops in school. Here is an experiential approach, with the children learning through seeing and doing.

The drama curriculum is enhanced by the additional clubs and performances that there are throughout KS2. The PSHE curriculum emphasises strong relationships and is linked across the curriculum.

ICT

ICT is taught as a separate subject but is also used in all the teaching. As well as the ICT labs, each form has a bank of chrome books to enable the children to use ICT in all their subjects. There are additional clubs to further extend the teaching of coding and animation.

ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Art, and design and technology, music, PE and games are taught by specialist teachers and the curriculum includes regular workshops and exhibitions. As part of their music, all the children are expected to perform in choirs and there are various music groups ranging from small ensembles to the Junior Orchestra.

FRENCH

French is taught from Year 3 as a specialist subject to build in linguistic skills. The children are introduced to other languages through various clubs.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We also continue with the outdoor education provided by the Pre Prep with the woodland days for our Year 3 and 4 children. Residential trips in Years 5 and 6 also support their development of greater independence.

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“The School very successfully fulfills its aim to inspire its pupils to fulfill their potential.”

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

The Prep School benefits from its own dedicated facilities specifically for this age group, as well as sharing Senior School resources

Whilst in many respects the Prep School operates separately from the Senior School, both share the same educational philosophy, as well as many teaching staff and excellent facilities.

In addition, friendships and joint activities link both Juniors and Seniors, giving pupils a sense of continuity as they progress through the School.

Our outstanding Prep School facilities include:

- Modern, recently renovated classrooms
- ICT suite
- Art facilities - including a bright and light gallery
- Prep School Library
- Access to the Walde Music School
- 180-seater Drama Centre and associated spaces such as the Green Room
- Historic dining hall, shared with the Senior School
- 100-acre site for physical education and games
- Flood-lit all weather hockey pitches, tennis courts and cricket nets
- Prep School playground
- Astro turf adventure playground
- Sport and Wellness Centre
- Health and Wellbeing Centre.



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We allow our children the opportunity to taste a whole series of experiences beyond the classroom, which gives them the confidence to succeed

At Key Stage Two, there is a wide range of clubs and activities for them to enjoy. Most are hosted by their teachers as they share a personal interest. They also are all expected to perform in the concerts, often at prestigious venues such as Cadogan Hall, and to take advantage of the drama clubs and plays.

Each of our year groups has their curriculum enriched by relevant day trips, museum visits, workshops, and there is an activities week every year to add extra depth to the children's learning.

For example in Year 4 recently, we had a visit to Verulamium, a Roman day and a Decades day. There are Chocolate, Divali dance, money matters, healthy eating and fairy tale workshops. We also had a farm visit and a woodland morning. There was a play performance and a dentist visit as part of science. There was also music in the prom concerts and a Prep School concert in which they all sang.

Through this wide curriculum they have the chance to learn through play and develop the confidence that comes from participation.



PASTORAL

Pastorally, the children are supported by the form tutors, Heads of Year, Mrs Tilbrook (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mr Thomas (Senior Deputy Head) and Mrs Gibbs (Head)

We make sure that not only their physical health, but also their mental health is a priority. We expect our children to make mistakes and learning from them is an essential part of their growth.

We are proud of the way that we support our children as they grow and learn. They are organised into small groups and this allows us to give them individual care. Our committed and stable staff body gets to know them well, and nurtures them as they move through the school.

Children flourish with praise and our rewards system gives them the incentives to try their hardest and to have their achievements noticed. There are behaviour ladders, gold stars, house points, reading awards, writing challenges, maths certificates, commendations and ‘positive feedbacks’ used to show our appreciation of the children’s work and their behaviour. There is also a weekly golden time in which the children enjoy the rewards of being good.



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THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The children take great pride in their house competitions and in the house points that they receive

There are four Prep School Houses, ‘Hanovers’, ‘Stuarts’, ‘Tudors’ and ‘Windsors’. We have a praefect system, with Heads of House and all year 8 children are given the opportunity to contribute in a leadership position, looking after the younger children.

Parental involvement is also very important for us and we pride ourselves on our excellent communication. You will be involved in your child’s education and we welcome your input. The parental association, the Friends of Chigwell, contributes so much to school life and always has room for new members.

TRANSITIONING TO THE SENIOR SCHOOL

The Prep School is part of a greater whole and we are lucky to be able to offer our children a seamless journey through their school life on one site

Sharing our facilities with the Senior School enriches the education that the pupils receive. From year 5 we have whole school events, such as concerts, Sports Day and Speech Day. This all helps cultivate a culture of belonging to one school.

When they come to move on to the next stage of their school life, they are comfortable with their surroundings. They have been taught by many of the Senior School specialist teachers and in years 7 and 8 they have the opportunity to look after the younger children in turn.

As we are one cohesive school, we are also able to make sure that they are carefully placed in their forms and houses and have a thorough induction process to ease the anxieties of transition.

Above all else they are able to breathe and play in the beautiful grounds that we inhabit.

“Less than a stone’s throw from the Senior School, and set on the main school site, the Prep School is integral to the Chigwell community and adds to the all-pervading family feel”.



“Pupils in the Prep School
show excellent levels of
knowledge and understanding
in all subjects.”

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE, 2023

ADMISSIONS

Joining the Prep School

Admission to the Prep School is based on the outcome of a two part selection process which includes:

- A group session with other applicants
- 7+ Entrance Examination.

In addition, you will be sent a link to a reference form for your child's current school to complete.

ADMISSIONS

GROUP SESSION

This will involve some written and practical tasks in a small group. We will also be observing how pupils interact with others. Pupils can expect to remain with us for approximately 1 ½ hours. Please be reassured that we will take great care in ensuring that it is a welcoming and pleasant experience. During the session there will be an opportunity for parents to meet with the Head and Senior Deputy Head of the Prep School.

7+ EXAMINATION

The examination consists of papers in English and maths. You can find specimen papers in English and maths on our website.

KEY DATES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Key dates including the registration deadline, entrance exams, meeting and acceptance dates are posted on our website.

Please find out more about 7+ entry at:
www.chigwell-school.org/admissions

REGISTRATION

To register your child for a place, please visit www.chigwell-school.org to complete the online registration form and pay the registration fee.



Chigwell School

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