



CROSFIELDS SCHOOL

PrePrep

Transition

We understand that moving schools, particularly at a young age and in the context of a closure, can feel unsettling for both children and their families. In Pre-Prep, we place a strong emphasis on creating a warm, reassuring environment where every child feels happy, secure and ready to thrive from the very start.

Before joining, our team works closely with families to get to know each child as an individual; their interests, needs and previous experiences. This allows us to plan a smooth and thoughtful transition, with the right academic and pastoral support in place from day one.

When children arrive, they are gently welcomed into school life through small classes, consistent routines and nurturing relationships with their class teacher and teaching assistant. Our caring approach ensures that every child quickly feels known, valued and part of the community.

We also give careful attention to emotional wellbeing during times of change. With kind, experienced staff and a structured, familiar daily routine, children are supported to settle quickly, build friendships and grow in confidence. Where needed, additional support is available to help each child feel comfortable and develop a strong sense of belonging at their own pace.

Each class also has a dedicated parent representative. As you join the school, new parents are introduced to the class parent rep, who will welcome you and, if you wish, add you to a class WhatsApp group. This provides a valuable and informal way for parents to connect, arrange playdates and ask questions, helping families to build friendships and feel part of the community even before their child starts. It also creates an ongoing network of support throughout your child's time in Pre-Prep.

As part of our all-through school, children benefit from continuity, stability and a strong community spirit; helping them not only to settle in quickly, but to flourish throughout their time in Pre-Prep and beyond.

How many classes are there in Pre-Prep?

In Pre-Prep, there are three classes in each year group: three Reception classes, three Year 1 classes and three Year 2 classes. Each class is supported by a dedicated teaching assistant and has up to 20 children, ensuring a highly supportive and well-resourced learning environment. In our Little Acorns Nursery, there is one Nursery class for 2–3 year olds and one Pre-School class for 3–4 year olds, with Little Acorns operating as a year-round provision, with the option of term-time only.



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What is the class size and adult-to-child ratio?

In Nursery the ratio is 1 adult to 4 children, Pre-School is 1 to 8 children, including a class teacher. From Reception to Year 2, the class sizes are a maximum of 20 children, with a teacher and a teaching assistant in every class.

What is the pastoral care structure in the Pre-Prep?

Pastoral care in the Pre-Prep is centred around the class teacher, or key worker in the nursery, who is the main pastoral carer for each child. They play a vital role in ensuring every child feels happy, secure and well-supported, and communicate regularly with parents. Our open-door policy means they are always available to discuss any questions or concerns. The pastoral provision is led by the Head of Pre-Prep, supported by the Head of Early Years and the Pre-Prep Pastoral Lead, ensuring a consistent, nurturing and well-coordinated approach across the department.

The Zones of Regulation curriculum underpins our pastoral approach across the Pre-Prep, providing a shared framework for staff and children to understand and talk about emotions. Feelings are categorised into four coloured zones, helping children to recognise their body signals, energy levels and emotions. As a result, children are encouraged to speak openly about how they feel, developing their ability to self-regulate as well as co-regulate with others. This teaching is supported through a wide range of carefully selected picture books, alongside sensory toolkits and calm zones available in every classroom. We also offer parent workshops, enabling families to understand the Zones and use the same language and strategies at home.

What is the academic standard in the Pre-Prep, and how do you ensure children are appropriately challenged and supported?

The vast majority of children finish Reception having met the Early Learning Goals and are well prepared for the transition into Year 1. In Years 1 and 2, pupils perform well in comparison to national averages, with strong levels of progress consistently demonstrated.

Children's development is closely monitored through ongoing teacher assessments and observations, led by class teachers and overseen by the Pre-Prep Academic Lead. Parents are kept fully informed through regular meetings and detailed reports.

We ensure that all children are appropriately stretched within the curriculum, while also providing targeted support where needed. This is delivered through the class teacher, teaching assistant and our Learning Support department. We also have a strong understanding of, and provision for, children with English as



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an Additional Language, ensuring every child is fully supported to achieve their potential.

What does a typical day look like in Pre-Prep?

The school day runs from approximately 8:15am to 3:15pm, with optional wraparound care available from breakfast club through to after-school provision in the early evening.

Each day combines core learning, such as phonics, English and maths, with a broad range of subjects and enriching activities. Children also enjoy two outdoor playtimes, regular opportunities for creative and imaginative play, and time in the library to nurture a love of reading.

The day is carefully structured to balance learning, play and social development, helping children feel happy, confident and ready to learn

What facilities do Pre-Prep children use?

Pre-Prep children benefit from a range of purpose-designed facilities that support both their academic learning and personal development. These include bright, well-equipped classrooms, dedicated outdoor play areas and access to wider school facilities, ensuring a stimulating and varied school day.

Set within 40 acres of beautiful grounds, the environment offers extensive outdoor space for learning, play and exploration, helping children develop confidence and curiosity from an early age. Outdoor space is a key feature of the Pre-Prep experience. Children enjoy secure playgrounds as well as access to green spaces and woodland areas, where outdoor learning and exploration are encouraged. Our Forest School provision is an important part of this outdoor experience, with access to six dedicated outdoor sites across the school grounds, as well as a pond and polytunnel.

Indoors, pupils make use of class and school libraries to develop a love of reading, alongside specialist spaces such as the music room and sports facilities. Children in Pre-Prep regularly visit the Food Technology room, science laboratories, and Design and Technology workshop.

Children also benefit from opportunities to perform and build confidence on stage. They take part in a play in our theatre during the Autumn Term, an Easter Cantata in the Spring Term and a Summer Term concert.

Pre-Prep pupils also have access to facilities that support imaginative play, collaborative learning and quiet reflection, helping to create a balanced and nurturing environment in which every child can thrive.

What specialist teaching do Pre-Prep pupils receive?



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Pre-Prep pupils receive specialist teaching from Nursery onwards, ensuring high-quality instruction across a range of subjects. This includes PE and games, music, Forest School, swimming, dance and French, all delivered by experienced specialist staff to enrich the curriculum and support the development of key skills.

All class teachers in Pre-Prep are specialist Early Years and Key Stage 1 practitioners, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to their roles. They work collaboratively to ensure breadth, depth and appropriate challenge within the academic curriculum, delivering the National Curriculum objectives in an inspiring and engaging way. The academic provision is overseen by the Pre-Prep Academic Lead, with a strong emphasis on fostering a growth mindset and supporting children to develop confidence, resilience and a lifelong love of learning.

What enrichment opportunities are available in PrePrep?

Children enjoy a wide range of enrichment opportunities designed to bring learning to life. These include local trips, visiting speakers and hands-on workshops, alongside regular outdoor learning and themed activity days. Each term, children take part in a dedicated STEM Day and Forest School Day, providing exciting opportunities to explore, investigate and learn in different environments.

Our curriculum is further enriched through engaging, topic-based learning, such as *Enchanted Realms* in Year 1 and *The Titanic* in Year 2. We aim to create memorable, immersive experiences for the children, including hatching chicks in Reception, recreating the Great Fire of London in Year 2 and holding pancake races in Year 1. Parents also play an important role in enriching the curriculum by sharing their professional experiences, with visits from a range of professionals such as vets, dentists and the police, helping to broaden children's understanding of the world around them.

We also offer an extensive range of inclusive co-curricular clubs after school, led by our class teachers. These include activities such as Time Travellers, sewing, Lego Club and cross country, ensuring there is something to suit a wide variety of interests. In addition, pupils can take part in a selection of paid hobbies delivered by specialist providers, including peripatetic music lessons, chess and golf, among others.

What trips and educational visits are available in PrePrep?

All trips and educational visits in Pre-Prep are included within the school fees, ensuring that every child can fully participate in these valuable experiences. Each year group undertakes at least one trip per year, carefully planned to support and enhance the curriculum while also fostering independence, confidence and a sense of adventure.



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Our aim is to provide children with a wide range of memorable experiences, often offering opportunities they may not otherwise have outside of school. These visits are designed to inspire curiosity and excitement, bringing learning to life in meaningful and engaging ways.

The pinnacle of our trip provision in Pre-Prep is the Year 2 residential. During this special experience, all children embark on an exciting adventure, staying away from home for one night with their teachers and friends. The personal growth seen over these two days is remarkable; children often return noticeably more confident and independent, standing a little taller as they step off the bus back at school.