

LOWER PREP



Serva Fidem



Kingswood House School | Reception to Year 4
A Preparation for Life



Contents

Headmaster's Introduction	2
Reception	4
Year 1	6
Year 2	8
Year 3	10
Year 4	12
Upper Prep & Seniors	14
Join Us	16



4
Reception



6
Year 1



8
Year 2



10
Year 3



12
Year 4

Headmaster's Introduction

Lower Prep offers a wonderfully nurturing and stimulating environment through to Year 4 where children quickly grow in confidence. All of our pupils are incredibly precious, and it is important to us that they feel happy and safe.

Mr Duncan Murphy
Headmaster



Our Approach

It is rare to find such a magical alchemy as in our Lower Prep where shyness and diffidence gradually evolve into confidence and enthusiasm.

Our talented teachers offer a supportive environment where children receive outstanding care at the beginning of their school life. We accept pupils in the term of their fifth birthday and guide them through to the end of Year 4 when they move to Upper Prep as established and valued members of our school community.

Lower Prep is situated in modern, purpose-built classrooms together with its own outdoor learning facility. It is close enough to the rest of the school that the children can interact with their older peers but secure enough that they do not feel anxious in the presence of their older counterparts.

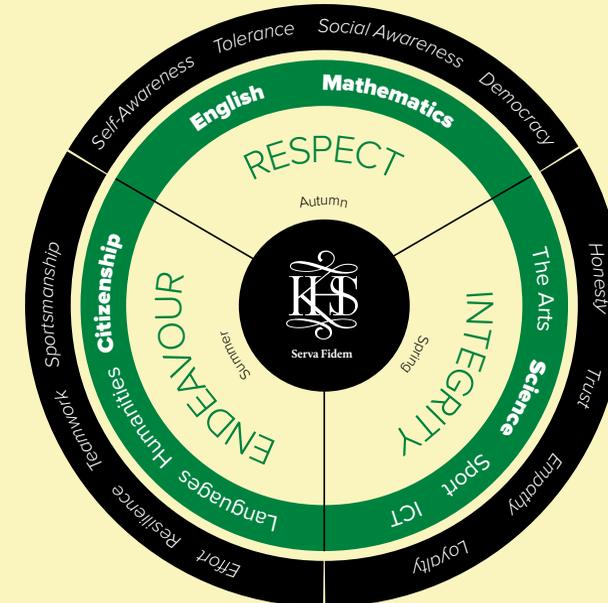
The pupils are gently encouraged to become more independent in their thinking, learning and personal organisation. They spend most of their time with a class teacher, who teaches them the core subjects, but they also move around the school for their lessons in more specialist subjects.

Our parents and visitors comment that there is a conducive atmosphere of creativity and praise that enshrines day to day life in Lower Prep.



Mrs Lambert
Head of Lower Prep

The Kingswood House Way



A Preparation for Life

The three precepts of Respect, Integrity and Endeavour underpin the nucleus of "The Kingswood House Way". We believe that the need for young people to have emotional tools, such as resilience, as well as academic knowledge, has never been more important.

Reception

At Reception age, we instil the foundations of learning through play, which is at the heart of Early Years education.

Being so young, the quality of learning depends very much upon the quality of the interaction between each adult and child as well as the quality of interaction between the children themselves.

Children learn to relate to their friends, support each other and develop a growing understanding of the importance of fairness, hygiene and safety.

There is a rich variety of learning opportunities for all pupils delivered in a sensitive and encouraging manner, in the early stages of reading, writing, counting, painting, drawing and physical development.

Throughout the year, our children go on some exciting school trips in order to foster learning out of the classroom.

They take part in our annual Christmas Nativity production as well as class assemblies.

Curriculum:

Learning is based on the seven key areas in accordance with the National Curriculum and is enriched with different resources to ensure that each child reaches their full potential.

Topics are carefully tailored and introduced to capture each pupil's attention. Literacy is taught using specific texts whilst reading and phonics also form an important part of the daily routine.

Children have a class teacher and subject specific teachers for PE, Music, French and Forest School.

In addition to the standard curriculum, pupils start to learn mindfulness and develop a growth mindset.

There is a fantastic outdoor area where an abundance of practical topics are arranged.

We listen carefully to the pupils and respond in a way which recognises the "Voice of the Child". Each day is balanced with child and adult-led activities.

Pupils are consistently and expertly tracked and a detailed educational profile is documented on each child.

ENJOYING



BUILDING



Creative Curriculum:

The curriculum in Year 1 offers a balanced range of subjects with a sensible proportion of written and practical activities.

Each day is structured to incorporate significant time for numeracy, literacy and a topic area in the afternoon.

ICT is taught in a fully equipped digital suite with other specialist subject teachers taking the pupils for French, Forest School, PE and Music.

Pupils in Year 1 study: The Seaside in the Past, Knights and Castles and Living Things in Their Habitats.

Assessments are part of the English and Maths schemes of work; these written tasks take place at the end of each term in their classrooms. Progress and effort are reported to parents each term, as well as benchmarking against national age-related expectations.

Trips and workshops in Year 1 reinforce information covered in class. Pupils visit beaches, castles and bakeries!

They also experience Yoga and Cooking workshops in school.

Our small class sizes enable outstanding teaching and learning. We know all our pupils and they know all of us!

Year 1

During Year 1, pupils typically become more sociable and strong friendships are formed. Interactions between adults and themselves, as well as with their peers, remain important as each child continues to learn tolerance, respect and appreciation of others.

The concepts of freedom of speech and democracy are explored so that children feel confident in expressing an opinion and discussing it as part of a group.

There is a carefully-cultivated atmosphere of supported individual accountability - we want the children to make the odd mistake but to have the resilience to cope emotionally and the diligence not to make the same error twice.

A strong programme of pupil mentorship, organised via our forward thinking House Family system, enables older pupils to take on responsibility for helping younger children understand and manifest the values of the Kingswood House Way. We have found that this approach yields outstanding results in terms of our pupils' well-being and happiness.



Year 2

As our pupils move into Year 2, we provide manifold opportunities to help them grow in independence by introducing life skills and emphasising the values of the Kingswood House Way.

Teachers plan carefully to ensure that lessons are dynamic and stimulating. Wherever possible, they are practical because we believe that this element of learning garners the best engagement and enthusiasm.

Whilst pupils continue to benefit from a broad and engaging curriculum, there is still a significant focus on English and mathematics since an early understanding of these skills underpins success in so many other subjects in due course.

Creative Curriculum:

In Year 2, Seasonal Changes and Humans form the foundations of an enriching science curriculum.

There is a fascinating opportunity to compare and contrast the Arctic and Antarctic with the Amazon Rainforest and Brazil.

Evocative studies of Florence Nightingale and the Great Fire of London allow for interactive historical debate. Pupils also have enormous fun constructing their own Castles and learning how to defend them!

Literacy and numeracy lessons are consolidated and enhanced with specialist ICT resources.

There is a competitive scholarship examination for a range of internal and external awards into Year 3.

Pupils are given the platform to develop a team ethic by joining the choir or representing the school in sports fixtures.



EXPLORING

Year 3

The primary objective of life in Year 3 is to provide a platform for our pupils to demonstrate the confidence and independence they have derived hitherto.

Children are gently encouraged to take increasing responsibility for both their actions and their possessions.

Creative and critical-thinking skills underpin the classroom methodology and propagate a willingness in each individual to try new things and achieve more than they believe is possible.

Under the watchful eye of their teachers, Year 3 pupils start to become role models for the younger children in Lower Prep.

Commendations and certificates for effort or achievement are celebrated in front of our school community in weekly assemblies with the Headmaster.

Activities include creative writing, spelling, grammar, numeracy, board games, touch-typing, swimming and art.



Sports play an increasing role in Year 3 with an abundance of house matches, school fixtures and skills practices, together with Year 4. Certificates for Player of the Match or Sportsmanship are awarded each week in assembly and recorded in the newsletter.

ACCOMPLISHING

Creative Curriculum:

Science topics include Rocks, Soils and Food – during which our pupils learn how to be a “super human”.

When studying the Victorians, the pupils have an eye-opening taster of living life in a Victorian classroom.

Pupils make their own Anglo-Saxon weaponry and learn how to defend themselves with swords!

CHALLENGING



Pupils in Lower Prep are encouraged to try a number of engaging extra curricular clubs such as Football, Cooking, Chess, Lego, Judo and Touch Typing.

The Creative and Performing Arts play an integral part in the cultivation of confidence and culture in Lower Prep. Opportunities for performance range from class assemblies to concerts or exhibitions.

Curriculum:
Pupils are placed in sets for numeracy and some aspects of literacy. There is a clear transition from Year 3 to Year 4, denoted by more rigorous content across all subjects.

Some key topics covered include: Ancient Egypt, Villages in India and Specific Habitats.

Pupils are internally assessed every term in core subjects. Written tasks take place at the end of term in their classrooms.

Effort and attainment are reported to parents each term in grade cards.



For those pupils who demonstrate consistent consideration for others, there is the potential to be appointed as a Lower Prep monitor. This responsibility includes having lunch with the Headmaster, fulfilling classroom duties and acting as a mentor to new children.

Year 4

In the final year of Lower Prep, pupils are enthused by academic challenges and inspired by creative arts and sport in keeping with our commitment to a genuine all-round education.

Teaching is carefully differentiated and allows each child an opportunity to make strong headway and to develop a natural, avid curiosity. An inclusive and stimulating programme of study ensures that academic foundations are secure.

In advance of their move to Upper Prep, it is a greater expectation that the pupils can independently follow a timetable, complete the prep diary and look after their possessions.

It is hugely rewarding to embed the Kingswood House values in our pupils and chart their progress in the later years through Upper Prep and Seniors.

Upper Prep & Seniors

There is a proud culture at Kingswood House of educating the whole child, nurturing confidence and developing self-esteem. Pupils are encouraged to enjoy their learning and develop their skills in a calm environment of intellectual curiosity.

Our teachers are talented, dedicated and caring professionals who bring learning to life and inspire their charges by plentiful use of encouragement and praise. In the spirit of inclusion, children of all abilities are suitably challenged and sensitively supported in their thirst for knowledge.

Although the form teacher remains an important influence, and maintains an overview of each pupil's academic and pastoral well-being, subject specialists are increasingly introduced from Year 5 onwards.

The Headmaster meets with all parents during the spring term of Year 5 to provide an overview of each child's progress.

There are competitive internal and external scholarships available into Year 5, Year 7 and Year 9 for suitable candidates.

Curriculum:

The pupils in Upper Prep showcase a convivial atmosphere of friendship and purpose.

Pupils continue their journey of all-round enrichment and independence so that they are prepared for the move into our Senior Years. We build each child's confidence by giving them a strong academic platform, together with important life skills, that will enable them to grow in self-belief and help them achieve their full potential.

CONTINUITY

The curriculum follows the Common Entrance Syllabus during Year 5 and continues through Years 6, 7 and 8. It provides an excellent preparation for GCSE and ensures a commensurate level of attainment for our own Senior Years or alternative destinations.



The Next Step



JOIN US

Open Mornings

We hold Open Mornings every term and they are the perfect opportunity for families to tour the school and meet our pupils, parents and staff.

Admissions

Prospective parents are invited to visit, either on an Open Morning or on an alternative day by appointment, when they will be given a tour of the school by pupils, have an opportunity to meet with the Headmaster and any other relevant staff as appropriate.

Taster Day

All prospective pupils are invited to attend a Taster Day. The pupils will experience time in an age-appropriate class together with their peer group. As well as informal screening tests in English and maths, we will consider each pupil's overall suitability to flourish in our environment at Kingswood House. We aim to give parents some informal feedback on the day and to write with further information, including the offer of a place, within two days.

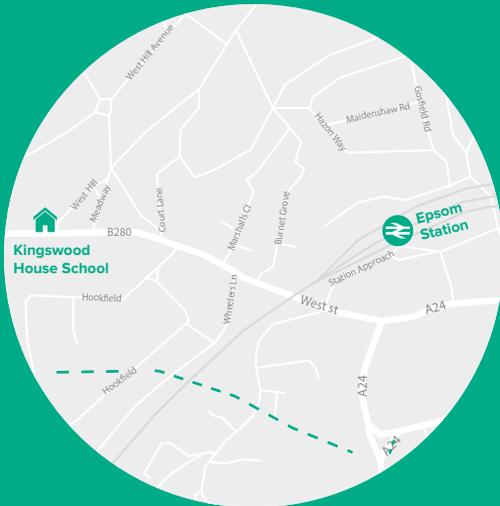
Academic Scholarships

In November, or February, we hold an internal and external Scholarship morning for entry into Years 3, 5, 7 & 9. Awards may be offered to pupils who show outstanding all-round ability and a strong correlation with our values. These are reviewed annually, dependent upon consistent effort and attainment.

All enquiries should be addressed to Mrs Ines Witts:
admissions@kingswoodhouse.org
Telephone: 01372 723590



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*Less than half a mile walk
from school to station*

Location

Kingswood House is in an excellent location with easy access by road and rail. Situated on West Hill, the school is just on the outskirts of Epsom town centre with the railway station a 10 minute walk away.

We have five minibuses that transport pupils to Kingswood House each morning. The children are collected at designated pick-up points.



 56 West Hill, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8LG

 office@kingswoodhouse.org

 01372 723590

 www.kingswoodhouse.org

