

NURSERY AND
PRE-PREP
SCHOOL







W E L C O M E



There is no one more precious than our children. They are the future – and the future for a hopeful world. So our task at Gresham's Pre-Prep is simple. Together we work to create an environment where happy, relaxed, calm, courteous and curious children can flourish and be their best.

Children's well-being is fundamental to good learning. So first we ensure that your child feels safe and secure and that he/she feels valued and of significance. You will find strengths are celebrated and weaknesses supported. Caring staff and generous pupil-staff ratios ensure that we know your child as an individual.

We use a variety of means to do this. We consider children's individual learning styles. We offer extensive curricular and extra-curricular activities. We harness children's interest and curiosity both indoors and outdoors. We invite visitors from outside the school to share their experiences and skills with the children and we take pupils on visits to the wider world. Our staff team work alongside parents to give our pupils every opportunity to make the most of themselves and to enable them to do a little bit better than anyone thought possible – to reach for the stars!

We would be delighted to welcome you to Gresham's Pre-Prep, please come and visit.

Sarah Hollingsworth, Headmistress

A GREAT PAST AND AN EVEN BETTER FUTURE

Gresham's was founded in 1555 by Sir John Gresham. He went on to become Lord Mayor of London and forged close ties with the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. Strong links with the City of London remain today.

We're located in the market town of Holt, just four miles from the breathtaking North Norfolk coastline, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Pre-Prep has around 100 children and occupies an attractive site in a Grade II Listed building backing on to playing fields – 200 spacious acres in all, perfect for any growing child.





PASTORAL CARE

THE SPACE TO FLOURISH

The first few years of school are instrumental, which is why we provide extra care and support. Our small classes enable the class teachers to really get to know each child.

We expect good behaviour and our Golden Rules give clear and easy guidelines for even the youngest. Whole school assemblies mean that our care, compassion, honesty and respect constantly shine through. Staff sit with the children at lunch, providing role models for good conduct, and they also undertake all playground duties.

Older children help care for younger ones through our House system and School Council. Year 2 pupils can become House Captains or Vice-Captains, introducing them to responsibility. Our Friendship Bench in the playground gives every child the opportunity to find playmates.

NURSERY

THE PERFECT FIRST STEP

Our Nursery provides a safe, happy and stimulating environment where your child will enjoy playing and learning. Children can attend from the age of 2 and both part-time and full-time places are available.

Set within a school environment, it shares all Gresham's facilities, including the swimming pool, Auden Theatre, Britten Building, Dyson Building and School Woods as well as all its grounds. Your child will also benefit from interacting with older children, giving them important role models.

Your child will be taught in a small class by fully qualified and experienced Nursery staff. We provide a varied and stimulating curriculum which follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

There is a strong emphasis on personal, social and emotional development. Your child will soon become independent and confident, gain social skills and respect for others, and, above all, develop into an eager learner.





RECEPTION

REVEALING POTENTIAL

Your child can join our Reception class in the September following their 4th birthday. Our class sizes are small, and your child will also be able to use the secure outdoor play area, plus the school playground and adventure playground.

We continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, and there are trips around the local area to support learning. Physical activities include games, dance, gymnastics and swimming lessons.

YEAR 1

MAKING NEW DISCOVERIES

We follow the guidelines of the National Curriculum, using topic-based learning, while adding our own special touches. Educational and fun visits to the local area continue, and your child will learn new PE skills through gym, dancing and swimming.

Fun activities are all about using enjoyment, enquiry and discovery to learn.





YEAR 2

BROADENING HORIZONS

Class sizes are still small and we continue to teach through topic-based learning.

In Year 2, your child will start joining the Prep School for weekly games lessons to practise the sports skills which will allow them to participate in team games and activities, taking advantage of all the opportunities offered by our many playing fields and other open spaces.





LANGUAGES

A WIDER PERSPECTIVE

Languages are introduced in Nursery with exposure to a variety of languages from French, German and Italian to Japanese and Spanish with Mandarin in Year 2. The aim is to give the children a taste of other languages and to encourage them to be learners of language, rather than of just one language.

We believe that by giving children exposure to very different languages early on, their overall language skills will benefit, improving their abilities at French, Spanish, German and all the other languages which we teach at Gresham's.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

THE SPACE TO DEVELOP TALENT

We have a specialist music teacher and several visiting music teachers. All children from Nursery to Year 2 have two class music lessons a week and your child will have the opportunity to perform on stage.

Children in Year 2 form the Pre-Prep choir who perform every term in the School Chapel.

Individual music tuition is available for piano, violin, flute, clarinet, recorder, ocarina, singing, guitar, harp and trumpet – if your child has a musical talent in any area we'll soon help to discover and develop it.



EVENTS AND CONCERTS

HELPING YOUR CHILD FIND THEIR VOICE

Concerts and other musical productions take place each term with children from all year groups given the opportunity to speak and sing on stage. Children who learn an instrument or have individual singing lessons can also perform in classes and in assembly. Parents are invited to join us at assemblies and to see for themselves how their child is progressing.

Children watch productions at local theatres and professional theatre companies visit us as well. Our annual Harvest Festival and Christmas Carol Services take place at St. Andrews, Holt. We also enjoy performances by the Prep and Senior School musicians who come to play in ensemble concerts. At the end of the Summer Term our children perform for parents and invited guests at our Speech Day.

ICT

LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

ICT is integral to the Pre-Prep, and we have a suite of computers in our on-site ICT room. A network system around the school allows pupils to work from the computer room or classrooms with ease.

As well as in dedicated lessons, ICT is used in many areas of the curriculum. Interactive whiteboards throughout the school, including Nursery, allow for up-to-date teaching and pupil interaction, and we use many other technical resources such as netbooks and tablets.



BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Our Breakfast and After School Clubs are open to any child from Nursery to Year 2.

We know that the traditional school day doesn't always fit in with a parent's busy life, in fact we often hear that finding good, reliable childcare is one of the biggest challenges for parents. Therefore, at no additional cost, we provide wrap around care for children from 8am until 5:30pm (5pm on a Wednesday).

Many working parents or families with older children at Gresham's find the Clubs helpful, and children enjoy the fun and interactive activities on offer.

In the morning we serve breakfast to prepare children for the busy day ahead, and in the evening we provide tea. Children participate in a range of games and activities in a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

Activities and Hobbies

Pre-Prep children enjoy an unusually rich school day, with a generous allocation of time and specialist staff in the arts and sports. However, the school day is not limited to 8am to 4pm.

Clubs are either organised by members of staff or by visiting coaches and experts.



ALUMNI

OLD GRESHAMIANS

Many well-known individuals have attended Gresham's over the centuries, achieving great success in business, politics, sport, the arts, and many other fields.

Old Greshamians include composer Benjamin Britten, poet WH Auden, inventor and businessman Sir James Dyson, Oscar-winning actor Olivia Colman, artist Ben Nicholson, and sportsmen Tom and Ben Youngs.



NEXT STEPS

A good starting point for more information is our website www.greshams.com

However, the best way to look further into a Gresham's education is to visit us and experience it for yourself. Our website has the dates of our Open Days, when you can look around the school and meet pupils and staff.

Alternatively, you can arrange an individual appointment and tour with the Headmistress of the Pre-Prep by contacting us on **01263 714575**.





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Gresham's School (Registered Charity No. 1105500)
Gresham's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.