

PRE-PREP SCHOOL

For children aged 4-7

LOVE TO LEARN



BEESTON
HALL
SCHOOL







LOVE TO LEARN



A happy, wholesome place where children love to learn.

As a father of three, I remember well the early hurdles and small successes that populate our children's lives as they start to go to school, getting used to its routines and rhythms and then beginning to enjoy it. Before long they come home wide-eyed with excitement full of the day's adventures. It won't all be plain sailing but, if the loyal following of Old Beestonians is anything to go by, it is not simply enjoyed, it is loved and remembered for a lifetime.

From the beginning, children find that their creativity is encouraged and their contributions are valued and so they develop a genuine sense of self-worth. Small classes, modern resources and specialist teachers who offer such a broad range of activities in our idyllic coastal setting, enable us to ensure a unique experience of school. Children leave Beeston with a sense of achievement and confidence they have met challenges, together, in an atmosphere of kindness and courtesy.

We can now offer the foundations to this experience through our small-scale Pre-Prep School where the flame of education is lit and each child is inspired by his or her daily experience. With purpose-built classroom facilities and outdoor play areas, the Pre-Prep will give our youngest children the best of both worlds: a homely indoor space alongside Beeston's fabulous grounds and facilities.



I hope the following pages give you a flavour of Beeston. Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decision a parent makes and requires a huge commitment, both emotionally and financially. Therefore I would urge you to come and meet the pupils and staff, of whom I am so proud, as soon as you can. I look forward to meeting you and sharing the Beeston experience.

Fred de Falbe
Headmaster

DID YOU KNOW?

Over half our leavers won scholarships last year – all achieved places across a national range of 'first choice' schools.





SMALL GROUPS, BIG FAMILY



Our aim is to nurture children who are happy, healthy and love to learn. The Pre-Prep offers children the time and space to grow and develop at their own rate, supported by creative and inspiring teachers. Our small class sizes ensure that each child's learning journey is tailored to suit them. Our teachers get to know your child very quickly and work with you to ensure that their first years at school are positive and memorable.

The Pre-Prep begins at any point from the term after your child's fourth birthday. However, at whatever point your little one starts Pre-Prep, he or she will be welcomed into our friendly fold. Watching young children develop is so exciting, month by month, and we will give sincere advice according to your child's particular stage and needs, building and valuing these close relationships which have such a positive effect on children's learning and well-being.

NESTLINGS (RECEPTION AND YEAR 1)

We recognise the huge step that you, with your child, make when starting school, so that we provide a safe, stimulating, structured but fun environment to enable them to settle in. Reception-aged children work towards the Early Learning Goals across the Prime and Specific areas in the EYFS curriculum, helped by the close partnership we encourage between home and school.

This is further helped by our software programme, Tapestry, an online learning journey which allows you to keep up to date with what your child has been learning at school, alongside their progress and their next steps. Each child in our Pre-Prep has his/her own Tapestry profile from Reception to Year 2. There will be pictures, videos, observations and targets. At the start of the year, you are given a secure login so you can view your child's learning profile and make comments and add your own photos to show what your child has been doing at home to support their learning. Year 1 aged children build on this, working towards KS1 objectives, balancing adult-directed input with independent learning.

TRANSITION (YEAR 2 AND 3)

The Transition Class, or Ts for short, means a varied framework for teaching and learning, built on the Early Years' experience, to ensure continued progress. With the support of their familiar Form Teacher, the children begin to enjoy the benefits of specialist staff and the excitement of independence, as they develop their confidence and get to know the wider school.

DID
YOU
KNOW?



'ALL CHILDREN
ARE BORN ARTISTS.'
(PABLO PICASSO)

DID YOU KNOW?

Children learn as much outside the classroom as within it and as much from each other as they do from their teachers.





WHOLESOME LIVING

As a genuinely independent school, we are incredibly proud of the experience Beeston offers to each child, where individual needs are catered for. This is increasingly rare and the experience of small-scale schooling means no child is ever 'lost in the crowd'.

It is not just the sea air and idyllic coastal setting that are responsible for our wholesome quality of life. It is the way we think. The freedom children are given to play and learn together, without the pressure to grow up too quickly, helps boys and girls become happy and confident. This family atmosphere and sense of security enables them to take risks, explore and develop the resilience and confidence to face the challenges of life after Beeston. Our expectations of good manners and kindness, as we live and work together in this small community, engenders humility as well as pride, respect and empathy, as we encourage the children to become responsible, outward-looking young people with ambitions to contribute to the wider world.



'A country prep with vitality and warmth and a well-deserved reputation for nurturing its pupils who are friendly and confident, willing to give things a try. Given a solid grounding, Beestonians go on to do well.'

Tatler Schools Guide 2015





DID YOU KNOW?

Our flexible extended school day means that children can be dropped off with us from 8.15am in the morning and collected at 5.45pm.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

As they start school our children learn how to learn – they get involved, have a go and explore.

Our aim is to bring out each child's natural curiosity and creativity, their joy and eagerness to learn. That means we are listening to and observing the children, identifying what helps them develop. They learn about the structures and routines of school life which enable them to feel safe and comfortable and therefore to make mistakes and learn from them.

Free flow sessions enable this but there is also focused input, teaching core skills in reading, writing and maths. These skills are put into practice through independent learning challenges and enhancement activities. Whether they are child-led or teacher-led, investigative or experiential, all of our learning objectives, based around National Curriculum material, are set with the flexibility to adapt to children's differing needs.





DID YOU KNOW?

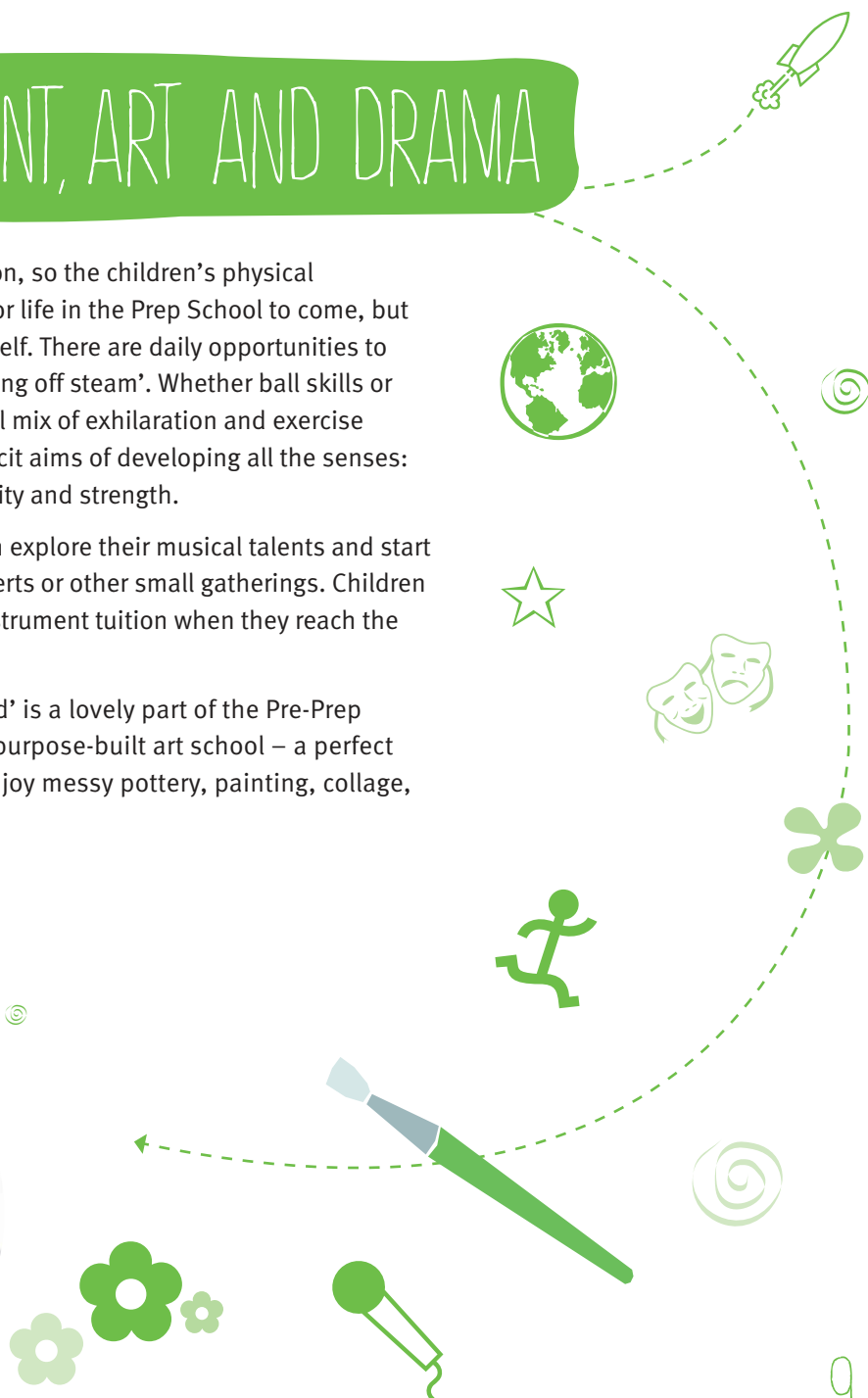
Drama helps us all with communication and getting to know ourselves, as much as the script. Beeston has annual whole school productions and countless other productions too.

MUSIC, MOVEMENT, ART AND DRAMA

These activities are integral to Beeston, so the children's physical development means they are ready for life in the Prep School to come, but also because they foster creativity itself. There are daily opportunities to enjoy this, beyond playtime and 'letting off steam'. Whether ball skills or swimming, all activities are a cheerful mix of exhilaration and exercise where simple fun disguises the implicit aims of developing all the senses: co-ordination, rhythm, agility, flexibility and strength.

With our specialists your children can explore their musical talents and start to present to audiences in mini-concerts or other small gatherings. Children can sign up for individual musical instrument tuition when they reach the Transition Class (Year 2 and 3).

Talking about 'what you have created' is a lovely part of the Pre-Prep routine, but there is also Beeston's purpose-built art school – a perfect place for our youngest children to enjoy messy pottery, painting, collage, woodwork and more.





DID YOU KNOW?

Concentration comes in many forms
– what we do is harness it, inside and
outside the classroom.

FREEDOM TO EXPLORE

At Beeston there is a range of purpose-built indoor and outdoor spaces, but teaching and learning takes place in many different contexts. Learning opportunities are planned to meet an individual child's needs. Collaboration and guidance, drawing on each other's strengths, inform the start of each topic, as children discuss, discover and enjoy a sense of achievement when tasks are complete.

From woodland camp to kitchen garden, children engage with nature and the seasons, examining flora and fauna, using natural spaces and objects for science, art and all manner of imaginative enterprises.

GROWING AND LEARNING

We share topic webs with families, and suggestions too, to enable parents to supplement and support their child's learning. Specific, planned events such as grandparents' tea parties, trips to farms or museums and special assemblies are all opportunities to see and build on this growth.

The school's investment in Tapestry educational software (app or online) enables parents to keep track of their child's personal learning journeys at the tap of a tablet or click of a mouse, viewing and contributing to the whole picture of their child's development themselves. At Beeston it is a true partnership.



DID YOU KNOW?

We have loveable school dogs who listen to the not-so-confident readers, encourage reluctant cross country runners and love a cuddle!



THE WHOLE PICTURE

Healthy and active living is at the heart of Beeston's philosophy, tending to mind, body and soul.

AFTER-SCHOOL HOBBIES

Our after-school time in Nestlings Class is gentle and calm, with children taking part in story time, art and pottering about in the outdoor play area with friends.

The Transition Class can choose from over twenty after-school hobbies. From dinosaur egg making, 'rock band' and baking, to street dance, cricket and 'explorers', there is so much for children to try.

'The scale and attention to detail at Beeston means that every child has the freedom to develop a lifelong love of learning and the confidence to enjoy each day, in a safe but truly stunning coastal setting. This is where children really can be children.'

Fred de Falbe,
Headmaster

DID YOU KNOW?

All of our vegetables are steam-cooked to maintain their nutritional value.



HEALTHY FOOD AND HAPPY GREY MATTER

At Beeston we have fresh, healthy, home-cooked food using locally sourced ingredients wherever possible, combined occasionally with our home grown fruit and vegetables. Our meals are varied, nutritious, well-balanced and above all delicious! There is usually a vegetarian option and special diets are competently catered for.

FOOD THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Children have Little Tea at morning break which consists of a homemade flapjack, sandwich or fresh fruit. Lunch means fish at least once a week and a mid-week roast. For children staying after school, a healthy snack keeps them fuelled at 3.30pm and a light supper is provided for those staying until 5.45pm. Fresh fruit and water is available throughout the day.

ENCOURAGING GOOD HABITS

We take a sensitive approach to fussy eaters and all children are encouraged by the adult on their table to try what is on offer, even if they just have a 'no thank you' portion. Salad and fruit are always on offer during mealtimes, and so too is pudding.

'Like at home, we serve all of our food as a family meal, with children sitting together with an adult, sharing delicious food served to the centre of each family table. No stressful canteen queues to be found at Beeston!'



A close-up photograph of two young children in school uniforms. The child in the foreground is a girl with light brown hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a light blue shirt and a dark blue jacket. Another child, with dark hair, is hugging her from the side. A green speech bubble with a dashed white border is positioned in the upper right corner, containing the text 'DID YOU KNOW?' and a paragraph about the school's history. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

DID YOU KNOW?

Danes, Romans, Normans and Vikings were formed when Beeston Hall School was founded in 1948.

A STRONG COMMUNITY

Happy children thrive, so ensuring happiness at Beeston is our key educational aim. We do this through the many ways we promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural well-being of the children in our care. From day one, children are welcomed and encouraged every step of the way to ensure they feel valued.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

The House system at Beeston is legendary, with Danes, Romans, Normans and Vikings maintaining a friendly rivalry throughout the children's school lives. The children have a gentle introduction to this, thereby getting to know the older children who benefit too from caring for little ones.

There are many activities within the school and beyond to develop a sense of belonging, whether it be house sports, performances or charity work. Giving children opportunities to get to know teachers and older pupils around school means that the step to Prep School will be an easy one.



A woman with long brown hair and a patterned scarf is smiling and painting a white stick figure on a piece of paper. A young girl with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a green protective smock, is looking up at her and smiling. They are sitting at a table with various watercolor paints and brushes. The background is a colorful, abstract mural.

DID YOU KNOW?

From Reels Night and the Summer Fete to Big Think Seminars, fashion souks and cookery demonstrations, we hold many social activities to appeal to every type of family.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Our door is always open. You are welcome to see your child's work at any time. More than likely you will be asked to admire the lovely things your child has done during the day, as they rush to meet you in the afternoon. A quick chat, morning or afternoon, is usually possible – if not an appointment shortly after this is always possible.

We do all we can to welcome parents to the close Beeston community, so there are also many social events throughout the year which give families opportunities to have fun and build lifelong friendships. We love making friends and having visitors and this is great role-modelling for the children!





6 REASONS WHY PARENTS CHOOSE OUR PRE-PREP

1

Our Big Beginning curriculum, taught in small classes of less than twelve, which balances classroom creativity and outdoor learning.



2

Our idyllic setting and unique wholesome ethos, where children love to learn.



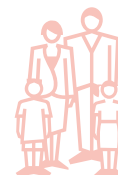
3

Our exceptional added value: we are a non-selective school, yet a remarkable 65% of children achieve scholarships to over 21 national senior schools.



4

Flexible wrap-around care from 8.15am to 5.45pm, making family life easier.



5

Over twenty after-school hobbies and activities on offer to enjoy.



6

Highly competitive school fees which incorporate all after-school hobbies, meals and wrap around care, with flexible payment options available to spread the cost.





DID YOU KNOW?

Our Registrar Mrs Farnell has had the pleasure of getting to know over 1,000 Beestonians in her 34-year tenure. She has a photographic memory for names and faces!







BEESTON
HALL
SCHOOL



WE LOVE HAVING VISITORS

We are always delighted to introduce visitors to our school, staff and children at any time during the year.
To arrange a tailored visit, please contact:

Mrs Vivien Farnell, Registrar vf@beestonhall.co.uk T: 01263 837324

We also host Experience Days throughout the year. Please see our website for details: beestonhall.co.uk

