

# Nursery and Pre-Prep School











## Welcome

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. Here, at Gresham's Pre-Prep 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, Nursery and Pre-Prep School





## 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 spectacular 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 years of school are particularly important, 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 and class 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 3 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, theatre, library and ICT rooms, 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 nurtured in a small class by our two fully qualified and experienced nursery staff. We provide a varied and stimulating curriculum which follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

There's 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 be able to use the secure outdoor play area, as well as 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, while in the Summer Term the children learn lots about the outdoors and their surroundings in Forest School and Beach School. Physical activities include games, dance, gymnastics and swimming lessons.



# Year 1 – making new discoveries

Our curriculum follows national guidelines with a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy. Our children enjoy topic-based learning where we are able to add 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 – in the summer there's even a special pirates day!



# Year 2 – broadening horizons

Class sizes are still small and we begin to teach History, Geography, Science, and Religious Studies as separate subjects.

In Year 2, your child will start 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 a mix of Mandarin, Italian and French and children are taught by specialist staff from the Prep and Senior School. 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

Music is part of the curriculum from Nursery to Year 2. We have a specialist music teacher and several visiting music teachers, who support our pupils.

Children in Year 2 form the Pre-Prep choir who perform in the School Chapel. All children in Year 2 also receive one group recorder lesson per week – even though they may not continue with this particular instrument, like our approach to languages, it serves as a great introduction to the wider concept.

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



# 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, taught by a specialist Prep School teacher, 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.



## Special events and concerts

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 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 in the Auden Theatre.



# Breakfast and After School Club

We run a daily breakfast club on weekdays from 8.00am to 8.25am and an after school club on all weekdays from 4.00pm to 5.30pm (3.30pm to 5pm on Wednesdays) which working parents or families with older children often find helpful. Children enjoy a range of activities and games in a relaxed, happy atmosphere.

**Hobbies**  
A huge range of after school activities extend the school day from Doodle Pots to Tennis providing every child with a range of exciting hobbies to try.



## Potential realised

Old Greshamians have achieved great success in business, politics, sport, the arts and many other fields.

They include the composer Benjamin Britten, the poet WH Auden, the inventor and businessman James Dyson, the actress Olivia Colman, the artist Ben Nicholson, and the sportsmen Tom and Ben Youngs.



# Your next steps



A good starting point for more information is our website, [www.greshams.com](http://www.greshams.com)

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

Alternatively, you may wish to arrange an individual appointment and tour with the Head of the Pre-Prep by contacting us on 01263 714575. You are more than welcome to visit the Prep and Senior School at the same time if you wish and we would be happy to arrange this for you.







**GRESHAM'S**

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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.