

The Villa

Pre-Prep & Nursery





WELCOME

The Villa is small school with a big heart. Not only is it a stimulating and imaginative place to learn, but just as important, a place that encourages children to be learners for life by encouraging independent thinking and resilience.



Our aim is to provide the highest quality education for all in a caring, supportive and inclusive learning environment. This commits us to employing the best teachers and offering a broad range of learning opportunities that enables every pupil to thrive and achieve their very best.







The Villa Pre-Prep, often referred to as ‘a village school in the heart of London’, is based in a handsome Victorian house set within mature walled gardens filled with trees and shrubs. Originally designed as a family home, The Villa has been in operation for over twenty years and retains a friendly atmosphere as a small, nurturing one-form entry school.

Our dedicated and experienced team is passionate about excellent teaching as the means to providing a solid foundation for high self-esteem and success. All children flourish in the happy, caring environment we have created, and move on with confidence to their new schools when they are seven.

CURIOSITY COUNTS

At The Villa our small class sizes mean that each child has a personalised learning journey that stretches, challenges and supports them.

Because core learning skills are taught through memorable learning experiences, we have created a bespoke creative curriculum designed to maximise childrens' engagement and inspire their young, inquisitive minds. We might form a ukulele orchestra as a means of understanding the rudiments of music, for example. Or through a termly creative theme, such as 'Famous People', raise important issues from gender and racial equality to climate change or effective leadership through studying the lives of David Attenborough, Michelle Obama or Rosa Parks.





SPECIALIST TEACHING

From Reception onwards children are taught by specialists in their subject. This fosters keen enthusiasm and wider knowledge in class.

FRENCH

Our French teacher leads sessions twice a week for the children. The classes are great fun and include French songs, conversation and games. As the children progress through the school they also start to learn the written language.

MUSIC

Music is a key part of school life and the children have regular lessons with our music teacher. They enjoy the opportunity to show their talents both to their class, at school assemblies and in special productions for family and friends. The children learn to play the ukulele and harmonica.

SWIMMING

Everyone goes swimming once a week at our local pool, where the children take part in lessons with qualified instructors. This important life-skill is a key part of the children's development which we nurture at a very young age.

PE

We provide a range of planned physical activities for all the children both within the school grounds and in the lovely small park adjacent to the school. As part of this provision, specialist teachers provide coaching for a range of sports skills. The children also take part in gym and dance sessions, including traditional Maypole dancing. At the end of the summer term all the children join together for Sports Day where they have the chance to show their skills and enjoy games with their teammates.





EXPLORATION

Forest School provides an excellent opportunity to explore the world around us. Led by Forest School specialists, the children explore woodland, climb trees and learn how to make dens and toast marshmallows on the fire. These weekly sessions take learning out of the classroom, they instil the importance of looking after our natural environment and allow the children to problem solve, get muddy and to take risks. All year groups take part in a block of Forest School sessions annually at a local wildlife area.

WELLBEING

PSHE themes run through the core of our curriculum and are taught in everything we do. Our small school environment and personalised learning approach means that all adults work together to provide a nurturing environment in which the children feel settled, safe and cared for.

We offer the children opportunities to practise mindfulness, to learn how to communicate and debate, to become more empathetic, to practise yoga and to learn life skills that equip them with all they need to be confident young people both at school and in the wider community.



PECKHAM, LONDON AND BEYOND

We use our excellent location as a teaching tool and maximise the easy links we have to the vast array of exciting learning opportunities in and around London. Children are given the chance to visit farms, castles and interesting houses as well as local landmarks, galleries and museums. Our curriculum is enriched by a wide range of visitors from chefs to authors and firefighters, each of whom discuss and demonstrate their areas of expertise.





GLORIOUS FOOD

Our in-house chefs make delicious, healthy, home-cooked meals in our kitchens every day. We make huge efforts to source ingredients locally, buy organic produce whenever possible and ensure that our menu is varied and well-balanced. Our menus take into account religious and cultural beliefs and we cater for children and staff who have food allergies and intolerances.

In an effort to engender a family atmosphere at school, the teaching staff eat lunch with the children in a calm and relaxed environment where conversation and good manners are encouraged and praised.

WRAP-AROUND CARE

Our core school day begins at 8.45am and ends at 3.30pm. However, we also offer wrap-around care from 8am until 6pm every day. During this time the children enjoy breakfast, a light tea and a range of relaxed activities before and after their busy school day.

In addition, we provide a range of after-school activities which run from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and vary each term. These might include: coding, football, yoga, art, science or dance.





7+ TRANSITION

Our curriculum is designed to equip the children with all the necessary skills, knowledge, enthusiasm and confidence with which to approach assessments and their future school life.

This period can be a tricky time for some parents, but because we understand your child and their particular needs, we are in a good position to help guide you carefully through to the next stage. Our extensive knowledge and links with local schools, as well as specially designed Parent Workshops and meetings during Years 1 and 2, all contribute to making this transition as smooth as possible.

THE NURSERY

We have a beautiful, light and airy purpose-built nursery within our school grounds which welcomes children from two years old.

When the time comes, the transition from Nursery to Pre-Prep is smooth. The shared facilities, familiar staff faces and on-going liaison between the child's Nursery team and Pre-Prep teachers ensure children are settled, secure, confident and ready for 'big school' in an environment they are comfortable in. As a Pre-Prep parent you are given priority for a sibling place in our Nursery.







COMMUNICATION

We believe that the individual nature of a child should be respected and that school life should be a positive, happy and stimulating experience. We know that it is important to encourage good manners, self confidence and consideration for others as well as resilience, sharing skills and debate in order to help each and every child become confident communicators with adults and their peers alike.

We have an open door policy and always make time to talk through any questions you may have. We appreciate that good communication between parent and teacher is vital to the success of everything we achieve and regular parents' evenings and detailed reports are given annually.

A SENSITIVE, DILIGENT APPROACH

Teaching young children requires a dedicated, sensitive approach to the way their minds and bodies develop. We gently stimulate their natural curiosity, which generates tremendous excitement about why and how things work and encourage group activities, because children never stop watching and learning from those around them. At The Villa we are diligent about making sure that no question ever goes unanswered and that every child has a voice.





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