



# LIFE AT THE PREP SCHOOL



**Sancton Wood School**  
Nurturing academic  
excellence for bright futures





## Welcome

Choosing an educational setting for your child is a significant choice and the early years are absolutely the most crucial for ensuring a firm and solid foundation for which children can grow socially, emotionally and academically.

Starting school can be a daunting process for both parents and children and the beauty and success of Sancton Wood is reflected in its all-through education where transitions are seamless and staff intrinsically know the children in their care. Being Head of both Nursery and Pre-Prep ensures continuity across this transition into school life and offers a key link and familiar face for our families.

Our Nursery and Reception staff work alongside one another to ensure the children are well prepared and understood to ensure the best possible start to the year. Transitions are ongoing throughout the nursery year and are gradually and carefully tailored to the needs of the children year on year. This planning allows the children to start school with confidence and positivity with a balance of formal learning and learning through play. Sancton Wood offers the best of both pastoral and academic outcomes for all where we are warm and nurturing but not without rigour and challenge. A consistent approach is taken across all of our early years classrooms to allow children to feel at home and familiar in their environments; we know that a happy child has an open mind ready for learning and new experiences.

Sancton Wood is part of the Dukes Education group with a specific Early Years group (Little Dukes) and we are proud to state our children receive "a first class education" where they are "welcomed into a second family, with the love and care you expect". Little Dukes uniquely offers early years specific conferences drawing in inspiring speakers from across the country to enhance staff performance and thus outcomes for pupils. This is something we are particularly proud of and is reflected in our great end of EYFS results.

The following pages provide you with a brief overview of some of the wonderful learning and developmental opportunities our children can experience. The teaching and close relationships support children in all aspects of learning and personal growth and with a true understanding of individual's characteristics we are able to build resilience and confidence for their future. Life in Pre-Prep at Sancton Wood is one of warmth, fun, adventure, learning and challenge!

**Nicola Henson**  
Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep



School



As Early Years Matters states: **transitions** are milestone events for children and have a definite effect on their development. They are times of exciting change certainly and times of new opportunities and growth for every child. They can also be times of uncertainty where surroundings are not the same, expectations and procedures different and faces as yet unfamiliar. Getting transition right is vital for every child and is not a single event that merely ‘happens’.



#### What we can offer you:

The value of an all-through education is simple: we know your child. Your child will learn in a safe and homely environment driven by the relationships we, as staff, build with them. The benefits of knowing the adults who will be teaching them allows a comforting and nurturing platform, a home from home, for which learning can begin. We offer smooth and timely transitions between year groups, particularly where they cross to a different building which ensures children are confident and happy in their new setting. We know happy children will learn.

We have natural based environments, and work closely with our families to implement and create a successful curriculum. Teachers facilitate children's learning by planning activities and lessons based on their individual and unique self and interests, asking questions to further understanding, and actively engaging in the activities alongside the child. We use a cyclical approach by planning, implementing, reviewing and assessing what best supports our children and reflecting upon this continually to ensure the best outcomes for them.



#### Promoting academic outcomes:

Our Nursery and Reception classes use Tapestry, the online journal, to write observations which allow for information about progress to be shared daily. This continuity allows parents to be a part of the child's journey throughout the Foundation Stage.

Our Reception cohorts achieve at least 80% good level of development; either expected or exceeding the age related expectations, which is up to 10% higher than the National Average within the county. This allows a solid foundation of learning to be established for which our children grow and progress into KS1 (Year 1 & 2) and KS2 (Years 3 - 6).

#### What you can expect:

We offer small classes with two adults throughout the Pre-Prep with superior facilities and specialist teaching spaces for Art, ICT, Drama, Science and Music with specialist teachers. We have a large hall and kitchen and a great play space with natural climbing frame and stage area for children to continue to explore learning in the outdoors.





# Art

Art is taught in our beautiful onsite studio where the children have the creative freedom to develop and learn new skills.



## Spanish

Spanish is taught weekly and supports both new and native speakers to develop their language skills.

## Drama

The drama studio is a space where children are able to explore movement, dance and theatre confidently. With rehearsals for the Nativity each year, this space is well used for our future stars!



# Spanish



# Drama



## Music

In our Music studio, children experience new skills and learning with our dedicated and highly experienced music teacher. They learn how to use instruments, make their own instruments, explore percussion sound, write music and sing - performing to large audiences throughout the year.

## P.E

P.E is taught by a team of highly trained staff who draw out early physical skills in large open spaces. We make use of being a city centre school in Cambridge and use local facilities such as Fenner's and Park Side pool.



P.E





A purpose built lab sits in the basement of our school and allows children to experience practical approaches to Science as well as witnessing experiments with our leading STEM Ambassador.



## ICT

With a growing technological future, our children are taught the skills they need to navigate their way around tablets, computers and digitally operated learning tools. With a designated ICT suite onsite, the children have technology at their fingertips.

# Science



# ICT



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