

# Ready Culford the Journey



**Pre-Prep & Nursery (ages 1-7)**

Independent boarding and day school for boys and girls aged 1 to 18 years



## Welcome

Culford Pre-Prep and Nursery School gives your child the very best start to their schooling. With small class sizes, a warm, nurturing environment and caring teachers who are always willing to go the extra mile, we offer children an education that caters for all and encourages each child to pursue his or her individual interests.

Everything we do is underpinned by our Christian beliefs and your child will quickly become part of the Culford family; a community which creates lifelong friendships and a strong sense of belonging. It is a community that actively welcomes parents as we fully appreciate that they also play a significant part in childrens' educational development.

Each child is unique, and it is our mission to give your son or daughter every opportunity to discover their interests and passions, find their strengths and develop their personalities, so that when they move on they will be ready for the journey.

Do come and visit us and see for yourself what makes our school so special.

# First taste of Culford

**Parent, Baby and Toddler**

Our regular weekly Parent, Baby and Toddler groups offer you and your child an informal first taste of Culford Nursery and an introduction to Culford School. They provide children with a host of new and exciting games and activities.

We have a number of groups that run throughout the week that are always updated and refreshed. Registered Culford parents are able to attend the sessions at half price.

Throughout the year we also have some special events such as a Christmas party and the Toddle Waddle, which takes place in the beautiful parkland that surrounds the nursery.



Our warm, nurturing environment provides children with a safe, happy place where they can develop their confidence as they begin their learning journeys.

Ready for Fun



# Eastfields Nursery

**Ages 1-3**

Eastfields Nursery provides a home from home experience for children aged from 12 months old. Inside, the freshly refurbished nursery provides a welcoming and cosy space for children to thrive. Outside, the child-friendly garden offers a safe place for little ones to explore. The nursery is open all year round.

Children can be dropped off from 08:00 in the morning and picked up as late as 18:00 at night. We also offer a breakfast club from 07:30 should parents require additional flexibility.

Our online learning journey, Tapestry, provides parents with updates on how their children are developing in all areas of the Early Years Curriculum. The children have

a range of activities that stimulate their interest and develop their learning both indoors and outdoors. As well as specialisms, such as music with our Head of Music once a week, we are able to offer ballet for the older children with our specialist dance teacher.

The children attend Messy Art sessions and also the Mini Movers activity, which takes place in our on-site Sports Centre. We also revel in the magnificent grounds that frame our nursery.

Eastfields Nursery is a feeder to Fieldgate Nursery at the Pre-Prep which then takes children aged 3 to 4 years. This progression is made as seamless as possible with lots of transition activities built into the term before they move over.





# Fieldgate Nursery

## Ages 3-4

Fieldgate Nursery, situated within Culford Pre-Prep, is light, spacious and boasts its own private garden. It is also a happy and creative nursery, and we work hard to discover and nurture your child's interests. Being part of Culford School means we can take advantage of the wonderful facilities on offer, including the indoor swimming pool, tennis centre and beautiful parkland.

Children settle in well at the nursery, quickly bonding with their teachers as they begin their learning journey. Variety is important to young learners and we make sure that there are lots of different activities on offer. With specialist teachers in music, French and Spanish, ballet, tennis and art, when we say that Culford caters for the individual, we really mean it.

In small classes, your child will quickly develop their literacy and numeracy skills in a rich and practical way. Children also learn not only how to express themselves, but also to engage with other children, learning how to take turns and share.

Progression into the Reception Class is seamless and the nursery enjoys frequent activities with the older children such as assemblies, plays and joint Early Years activity days.

Through our bespoke Stay and Play sessions, we can work with you to make your child feel at home at Culford. Do come and see for yourself what makes our nursery so special.



## Ready for Discovery

Situated in beautiful parkland with woodland on the doorstep, Culford is extremely fortunate to have its own Forest School – a way of learning outdoors that helps children to develop personal, social and technical skills.

# Learning at Pre-Prep

## Academic curriculum (ages 4-7)

We understand the importance of learning basic skills which is why our pupils have daily lessons in numeracy and literacy. Our structured approach includes creative writing, grammar and phonics classes with daily one-to-one reading sessions.

Knowing that children learn in different ways and at different paces, we adopt a range of teaching styles and strategies to ensure that every child is engaged and motivated in their learning. Using interactive whiteboards, laptops, iPads and hands-on experiences enhances lessons.

As well as traditional learning, we also try to develop the children’s skills through alternative approaches. For instance, philosophy encourages a deeper level of understanding through listening and questioning. We also encourage our children to think about their own education and take the time to understand what works best for them as individuals.

Through regular assessments we closely monitor and predict your child’s progress and work with you to ensure that their potential is fulfilled.

We are very proud of what our children achieve, both inside and outside the classroom.

Not only do we offer specialist teaching in French, Spanish and music but we also offer specialist coaching in sports including tennis and swimming.

Culford Pre-Prep delivers regular Forest School sessions. These outdoor classes enable children to develop their knowledge and confidence through den building, nature trails and learning about wildlife, all within the safe environment of Culford Park.

We understand how hectic life can be for parents, so we offer complete wrap-around care for those who require additional flexibility. Children can enjoy breakfast club from 07:30 and are able to stay after school until 18:00. We offer a wide range of after school clubs, including yoga, cookery, martial arts and Mad Science.

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My daughter is learning to read, write, count, play tennis, swim, share and dance: what more could a four year old want from school!



## Hands-on experience

**Enrichment activities**

Every child at Culford Pre-Prep and Nursery School benefits from a huge variety of hands-on experiences. By enriching their days we believe they will thrive, gaining in confidence by trying new things and develop new passions. We run a number of themed days and workshops including 'History off the Page,' Medieval and Tudor days, Pirate Day, Mad Science workshops, music workshops, maths and puzzle days, World Book Day and Sports4All with visiting athletes.

The children take part in many different visits and trips throughout the year. Reception Class often go on a historical visit, perhaps a trip to the dinosaur park, while Year 1 enjoyed creating their own tasty treats in the professional kitchen of a local restaurant, visiting local museums and watching birds of prey at Stonham Barns.

In Year 2, the children have the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom with an exciting three day residential trip to an outdoor activity centre. This is not only fun but helps build children's confidence in being away from home.



Pre-Prep is fantastic and we can't thank Culford enough for helping us to guide our three children throughout their childhood journey.



Playing without adult intervention, reveals their innate 'drama' skills such as the ability to create, adopt and sustain roles, to interact with others in imagined settings and to communicate feelings and atmosphere.



Ready for Variety

Creativity

Performing & creative arts

Drama and music are intrinsically linked within the Pre-Prep curriculum. Drama is woven into literacy lessons forming one of our cross curricular themes. We also encourage all children, from nursery upwards, to get involved with a range of dramatic and musical performances, from dance shows to the annual Nativity.

We believe that music is a vital part of children’s creative development.Specialist music teachers run choir and percussion clubs and teach timetabled lessons. Year 1 learn to play the ocarina and can take individual lessons in voice, guitar, cello, violin, drums and piano. In Year 2, the recorder is taught and they have the chance to begin learning the violin or cello under our Strings Starter Scheme.



A regular highlight of the year is our range of visiting musicians, such as a steel pan band and Bollywood group. By participating in these highly enjoyable events, the children experience the thrill of making music together in a group while learning about different cultures.

Art and design technology plays a very important role here too – art lessons are taught weekly using a range of different media, tools and techniques.

Additionally, children meet visiting artists throughout the year and, during the Summer term, they attend an art workshop at the Prep School.



## Sport and Co-curricular Activities

### Choices and facilities

We offer qualified, specialist teaching for all sports, at all ages, in unrivalled facilities. These include a championship standard Indoor Tennis Centre and a superb 25m heated indoor swimming pool.

Pre-Prep children also enjoy gymnastics, dance and games such as football, netball, tag rugby, hockey and golf. Children gain a foundation in a broad variety of sports and activities which helps them to enjoy an active, healthy lifestyle.

Pupils take part in a sports lesson every day and have weekly swimming lessons. Parents are invited to an annual Swimming Gala, Sports Day and Tennis Tournament. These activities help children progress in the sports of their choice as they grow and develop at Culford School.

Sport can also be enjoyed as part of the Pre-Prep's range of after school clubs. Whether it be country dancing, cookery, cricket, netball, yoga, rugby, football, art, Mad Science or musical theatre, we offer children a world of opportunity to discover and develop their passions.

Tennis has a high profile at Culford and private lessons can be arranged for those children who show interest and aptitude for the sport.



## Transition to Prep School

The transition between the different phases of school life is handled very carefully so that the children continue to feel happy and secure. To aid the move from Pre-Prep to the Prep School we hold a number of events so children can get a feel for the exciting times ahead of them. Most children progress from Culford Prep School to Senior School.

Good manners and respect for others features strongly at Culford, and the children leave us as a credit to the school and to themselves, full of the confidence needed to take on the opportunities and challenges ahead of them. Ready for the journey.

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My children are growing up to be polite, considerate, and fun individuals with a strong work ethic and a genuine love of learning. Culford has played a very big role in that.



# What to do next

## Enquiries & visits

The best way to find out about our school and its unique atmosphere is to come and visit us.

We welcome individual visits at a time to suit you and your family and we also host at least one open event each term. We would encourage you to come and see us as often as you like and to ask lots of questions of the staff and the children.

We all will make you very welcome and look forward to seeing you. To arrange a visit or find out more, please telephone the Admissions team on **01284 385308** or email **admissions@culford.co.uk**





# Culford

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