



OXFORD HIGH
PRE-PREP SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Reception at Oxford High Pre-Prep School



The secret of our Early Years provision is that we are academic and creative. The learning a girl does in her first year of school is crucial. It is on these strong academic and pastoral foundations that so much of her future success is built. For this reason, our curriculum has been designed to balance core skills in literacy and numeracy with a future-ready focus, an engagement in global studies alongside a variety of other subjects taught by specialists. We have the perfect balance of inspiration and care, a stimulating environment and teachers who really listen.

The central role played by emotional health and wellbeing is increasingly recognised in our world today. We take this seriously. That's why we have worked so hard to ensure that every day in the Pre-Prep is nurturing and supportive as well as intellectually stimulating.

Pastoral Care

The class teacher is at the heart of our pastoral care system and will know the children and their families very well. We recognise that even our youngest children still benefit from the wider wellbeing initiatives that we run throughout the school. Our reward system is values-based and focuses on six key attributes across the year – kindness, resilience, creativity, respect, courage and responsibility.

We truly believe in the development of the whole child and consider social and emotional development and wellbeing to be as equally important as academic achievement. This is why we encourage girls to participate in the Future Ready programme – a series of tasks spanning academia, sustainability, life skills and personal development – where children work towards obtaining their badges.

PSHE lessons are taught by a specialist teacher and follow a mindfulness-based curriculum approach. We also take advantage of tools from the Positive Project such as the emotional barometer to help children understand and express their feelings and emotions.



English/Literacy



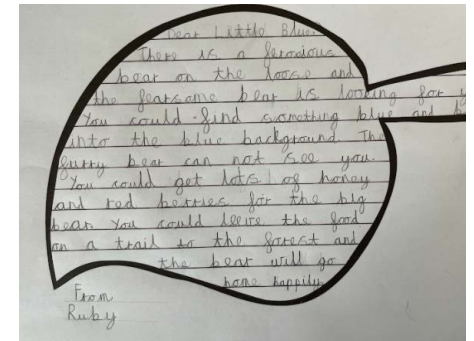
We believe the exposure to literature within the Prep School setting is vital as a rich context for learning. We successfully promote a culture of reading throughout the school that not only serves to broaden their vocabulary but also enables access to the curriculum as a whole and develops a lifelong love of reading.

Within our English lessons we aim to use high-quality texts that offer opportunities to develop the skill of inference and empathetic responses. This aids philosophical enquiry and is a means of developing their spoken language requirements.

The exploration of high-quality texts forms the basis of writing where the children begin to understand how to adapt their work to cater for different genres and audiences. They begin to include grammatical structure in their writing and have the opportunity to produce work independently as part of the weekly 'Big Write'. A dedicated phonics lesson is delivered four times a week and we embed handwriting into the phonics lessons. The girls are taught to write using cursive handwriting.



The children read to a staff member at least three times a week. They choose their own book to encourage reading for enjoyment. At the start of the year the books are very phonics-led with a build-up of fluency and sight reading throughout the year. Reading is very much tailored to each individual and ensuring they progress, whatever their ability.



Maths

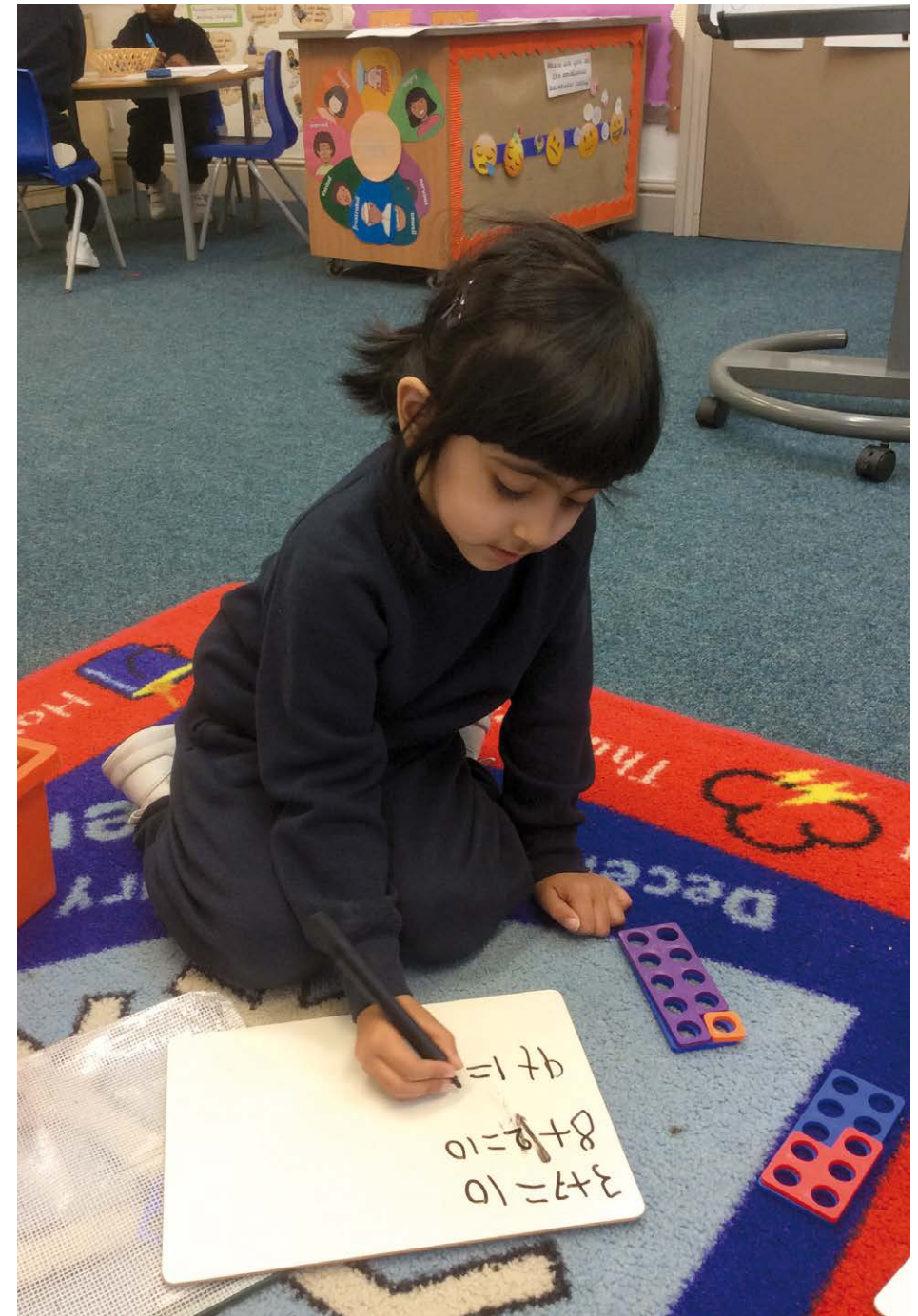
In our Maths lessons we aim to foster a deeper understanding, confidence and competence with numbers. A culture that produces strong, secure learning and marked progress.

We teach our Maths with an emphasis on a depth of mathematical fluency and understanding, using the Numicon Scheme. Numicon is a physical and visual approach to teaching Maths that helps your child to see connections between numbers.

As the year progresses, your child will be able to develop her understanding of more complex mathematical ideas, such as how two fours make eight, odd and even numbers, and so on.

This lays the foundation for their understanding of number all the way through school.

We very much encourage an approach to learning that reinforces the importance of perseverance and the ability to reason and explain. We encourage mastery and a depth of understanding in all that we teach.



Global Studies and Science

Your daughter will take part in Global Studies and Science lessons with her class teacher. Below you can find the topics we cover each term in these subjects. We also celebrate some religious festivals in school such as Diwali, for example.

Autumn Term

Global Studies: We explore Kenya and even learn some simple Swahili. This links with one of our English books which is set in Kenya.

Science: We explore sinking and floating this term.



Spring Term

Global Studies: We explore China in the Spring Term. With the girls learning Mandarin in their weekly language lesson, there is a focus on Chinese culture in the Global Studies sessions.

Science: We explore animals in the first half of this term, thinking about how we know if something is alive and naming some common animals. In the second half of the term, we learn all about space which links with one of our English books about meteor showers.

Summer Term

Global Studies: We learn all about England. It is important the girls understand their local environment and where they live. We link this with sustainability and helping our environment.

Science: We learn all about plants this term and the girls grow their own sunflowers. This links to our English book and writing instructions on planting seeds. In the second half of this term, we learn about life cycles which ties in with the exciting arrival of 8 chick eggs which we watch hatch and then look after for 10 days.



Specialist Teaching



Sport

Sport in EYFS is taught by specialist PE teachers and the curriculum has been designed to meet the early learning goals for physical development while at the same time introducing the children to a variety of sports and activities in a fun and inclusive environment. They will cover fundamentals and ball skills as well as gymnastics and dance during the Autumn and Spring terms. The Summer Term sport provision focuses on swimming with the children travelling to the Senior School pool. Sport staff join the children in the water with generous staff to pupil ratios.

Music and Choir

Girls are introduced to the fundamental aspects of music. Initially, they are taught the different ways in which they can use their voice and various methods of body percussion. They sing lots of songs which help them tune their voices and enable them to gain an awareness of pitch. They improve their physical coordination and dexterity with the addition of lots of actions to songs, which in turn, helps them gain an awareness of beat and rhythm. They are also introduced to some hand-held percussion instruments.

When in choir they are encouraged to listen to the quality of their singing, making sure that they are not shouting, and trying to tune into the other members of the class. Through this they build their confidence and support each other.

Mandarin

In Mandarin they learn the Chinese language through songs, art and dance. The goal is to introduce the girls to two skills of the language: listening and speaking, while keeping a playful environment. The girls also have the opportunity to explore Chinese culture during Mandarin lessons; via different activities we discover and celebrate the key festivals including Chinese Dragon Boat Festival, Chinese New Year and Mid-Autumn Festival.



Art

The girls are encouraged to express themselves through a variety of media incorporating the use of colour, line, painting, and printmaking. They learn about artists, designers and makers and use this newfound knowledge to make and create their own artwork inspired by a wide range of creatives. Each girl is given a sketchbook to work in and they enjoy using a wide range of materials and techniques.

PSHE

PSHE lessons follow a mindfulness-based approach. The girls cover the following topics: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Differences, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me.

Free Flow



Our girls take control of their learning both through child-led play and small study groups. Each week, their individual tasks are adapted to optimise their progress within the overarching curriculum. Our girls have a mixture of discrete (structured) learning time and free flow activities. During these free flow activities, the girls will have access to a huge variety of activities they can choose to do, all of which link to our curriculum and what they are learning. This includes a role play corner, a quiet reading space both inside and outside, an art table and imaginative play area, all encouraging

creativity and learning through play. They will also be able to choose activities outside in our EYFS area.



Forest School

The girls in our Pre-Prep school have a day of Forest School each half term, led by a specialist Forest School leader. Forest School supports play, exploration and supported risk-taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner-inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Our Forest School sessions give children a taste for the great outdoors and space in nature. Our aim is to spark an interest in nature in our future generation, so that they can continue to care for and explore the world as they grow into adulthood.



Food and Lunches

Food is an important part of life at Oxford High School because we recognise the role it plays in maintaining concentration, providing energy and enabling the children to make healthy choices as they grow up.

The girls in Reception are offered fresh fruit at break time but also encouraged to bring in their own healthy snack.

Lunches are served in our hall at the Pre-Prep. Parents have access to the weekly menu so you can discuss the varying choices with your daughter

beforehand. We have a lunchtime supervisor who is always on hand to help the girls with their lunch. The hall is a welcoming environment where we gently encourage the girls to choose a balanced and healthy meal. The girls have a choice of a meat/fish or vegetarian option, jacket potato, served with vegetables, and the option to add to their meal from the freshly prepared salad bar. They are also offered fresh fruit and a pudding.



A typical school day of an OHS Reception girl

Other subjects not listed below are Mandarin, PE, Swimming, PSHE, Computing, Art, Choir, Big Write

8.15 - 8.30 am	Arrival and free flow
8.40 - 8.50 am	Registration
8.50 - 9.10 am	Phonics
9.15 - 9.30 am	Literacy input
9.30 - 10.10 am	Free flow and Literacy focus groups
10.10 - 10.30 am	Break and snack time
10.30 - 10.45 am	Maths input
10.45 - 11.30 am	Free flow and Maths focus group
11.30 am - 12.00 pm	Lunch
12.00 - 1.00 pm	Break time
1.00 - 1.15 pm	Global Studies input
1.15 - 2.00 pm	Free flow and Global Studies focus groups
2.00 - 2.30 pm	Music
2.30 - 3.00 pm	Tidy up, story time and end of day routine
3.05 pm	Home time





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