



ST NEOT'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Lower School Prospectus 2005





“For all of us all here at St Neot’s, the early years of a child’s education are of enormous significance. The lessons that children learn on a daily basis in and out of the classroom, together with the subliminal messages they absorb from everybody they meet colour their entire view of school and rightly so.

For us, school should be a happy place; individual and corporate learning, cheerful playtime with lots of stimuli and a warm atmosphere in the classrooms conducive to friendly dissemination of information. When a new family joins the school all siblings will be accepted irrespective of age and station even if occasionally class numbers are already at our stated maximum of 18. The reason being that claiming to be a family school means that families should never be divided unless it is in the child’s best interests and class sizes take second place to that.”

Richard Thorp
Headmaster



The most important philosophical challenge for us at all stages through the school, not just the early years, is to teach children not to fear failure.



Early Years

Little Deers

Little Deers takes children aged between 3 months and 3 years. There are 3 staff always on duty, spread amongst the children, who number around 10 for a morning session and 10 for an afternoon, though this is not always so.

They play, eat, sleep and enjoy each other's company during the course of the day but most importantly they are stimulated by discovery. Working in accordance with the SureStart framework we aim to provide a secure happy introduction to life at St Neot's.





Early Years

Nursery

The Nursery takes children aged between 3 and 4 and is housed in a separate but nearby building. Generally there are a number of children who attend morning sessions only (9.00am – 12 noon), a few who stay all day for whom lunch is provided on site with the staff and a very few who come only for the afternoons (12.30pm – 3.30pm).

We recommend a minimum of 3 sessions so that children can gain some element of continuity, but sessions can be increased at a moment's notice after liaising with the Head of Nursery.

The children learn through well planned, purposeful activities with staff who care for them warmly, cheerfully and who encourage an enquiring mind.

The Nursery building has its own, fenced playground for safe play and many toys, which the children can all use or learn to use. All three and four year olds receive funding from the Hampshire County Council through the school as part of the Early Years funding provision.



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

There are two classes per year each with a maximum of up to 18 children and two members of Staff. The children do academic work in the mornings of a fairly traditional nature owing to the fact that the Headmaster is an old-fashioned classical dinosaur who believes that children should be taught how to read properly, how to manipulate numbers and letters and to become confident in their speaking.

Providing 2 staff per class is a deliberate way of ensuring that each child has somebody to turn to when needed. Not every child is happy all the time but experience has taught all the staff that giving support whenever it is needed is an essential part of fulfilling the wider ethos of the school.





St Neot's fosters a secure standard of early learning, but without any sort of hothouse feel. The progress made in the first three years is achieved by a close partnership between home and school.



To complement the teaching the children have an extensive play area, containing a very recent £12.5k refurbishment. It is set among trees with ground composed of at least five layers of bark to ensure soft landings.

The whole park, extending to 70 acres contains huge hide and seek trees, muddy ditches and places to play. The Staff supervise nature rambles or camp building and as the children get older greater freedom is enjoyed.

The school has an excellent After School club where the children may stay until 6.00pm. Here they can enjoy football or hockey, art or cooking; or relax playing games inside or outside with their friends.





Come and see the school. Ask questions, seek information, make up your own mind as to whether you feel that the ethos here fits clearly with your own ethos at home.



...we look forward to welcoming you!



St Neot's Preparatory School
Eversley, Hook, Hampshire RG27 0PN

t: 0118 973 2118

f: 0118 973 9949

office@st-neots-prep.co.uk

www.st-neots-prep.co.uk