



Pre-Prep Curriculum

SEPTEMBER 2021



James Allen's Junior School

INTRODUCTION

The girls at the Pre-Prep follow a broad curriculum which consists of Literacy, Maths, Science, French, History, Geography, Music, Art and Design Technology, Computing, Religious Education, Physical Education and Games.

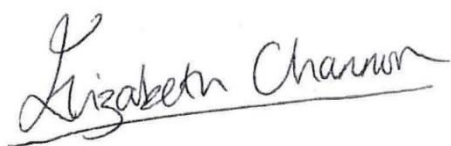
We believe that young children learn best when they feel secure and valued, when they are challenged yet supported, when challenges are closely matched to potential, and when learning is fun.

It is part of our role as educators to foster in our pupils; growing responsibility, caring attitudes, eagerness to learn, physical, mental and emotional fitness and the ability to cope in tomorrow's competitive and changing world.

It is for these reasons that the education offered at the Pre-Prep, both within the classroom and beyond, has the following aims:

To encourage all pupils to develop their full potential by stimulating their intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm and imagination.

- To promote excellence in academic, creative and athletic endeavours.
- To teach the value of integrity, morality and a concern for others.
- To enhance pupils' appreciation of their own and other cultures.
- To develop pupils' self-confidence and independence so that they are well-equipped to play an active role in society.
- To create an atmosphere of happiness and warmth in which children are motivated to work and play to the best of their abilities.
- To offer a broad, balanced curriculum, based upon the Foundation Stage and National Curriculum.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Channon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

MRS ELIZABETH CHANNON
HEAD OF PRE-PREP

HOME LEARNING AT THE PRE-PREP

The girls in Reception will bring home a reading book twice a week, and a picture story book three times a week, to share with you. Please encourage them to read it to you/with you and discuss the story with them. We aim to instill a love of reading in all girls from an early age, so please continue to read to your daughter, go to the library and share books at home. The girls will also receive some High Frequency Words (HFW) to learn by sight recognition as the year progresses. No holiday homework is set at the Pre-Prep.

The girls in Year 1 are expected to continue reading for at least 10 minutes each day. As the girls' fluency improves, the emphasis at home shifts to reading comprehension and detailed discussion and prediction of the text. They will also receive spellings to learn once a week, which will consolidate the phonics learning taking place in class.

The girls in Year 2 are expected to continue reading for 10 to 15 minute a day. As the girls' fluency improves, the emphasis at home shifts to reading comprehension and detailed discussion and prediction of the text. They will also receive spellings to learn once a week, which will consolidate the phonics learning taking place in class. In Year 2, the girls will also have some mental maths home learning to practise their number facts (e.g. times tables). No holiday home learning is set at the Pre-Prep. Parents will receive suggestions of other activities that their daughters can do on a termly basis, related to their topic, science, maths or literacy. These suggestions will include websites they can access, places to visit and craft activities. Girls (with parental guidance) are free to choose as many or as few of these to do at home. There is no expectation to carry out any of these suggestions – they are optional. The girls may bring anything they have done/made at home into school to share if they wish.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY AND DOWNTIME

The girls at the Pre-Prep are still very young and it is important that they are able to continue to develop their creativity and imagination through play. Research shows that children develop so many lifelong skills through play - both on their own and with family, and we firmly believe this at the Pre-Prep. The girls have very long days at school and it is important that they have 'downtime' at home, time to play and that they have a good night's sleep, so as to be refreshed and ready for the new school day.



RECEPTION PLAN

AUTUMN TERM

TOPIC: Here I Am

A science and language-based topic where we shall be examining

- our bodies and senses
- families
- pets
- home
- being healthy

It will also involve planning, preparing and organising a picnic for all families to attend.

SPRING TERM

TOPIC: Walking in the Jungle

A science and creativity based topic involving jungles and woodlands for investigation into plants and wildlife. It will also be the theme for creative story writing, art and music activities.

SUMMER TERM

TOPIC: Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside

This term we shall follow the Foundation Stage specific area 'Understanding of the World, which includes History, Geography, Science and Technology. We will look at holidays and travel through children's literature and creative activities, including music and art. We will plan a beach holiday day with the girls.

FRENCH

The girls will be introduced to immersion French and exposed to the language through speaking and listening and practical activities. They will learn new vocabulary on a range of topics using pictures, mimes, games, puppets, toys or books. French songs will be taught according to the topics covered in their language lessons or other curriculum subjects. In French Games, the children will be introduced to a range of games and physical activities through which they will learn practical vocabulary and develop their understanding of the language.

Topics will include greetings, colours, parts of the body, animals, food, numbers to 30, classroom instructions and the days of the week.



MUSIC (all terms)

Music is delivered through half class curriculum lessons and whole class singing lessons. In Reception, the girls begin the development of basic musical skills, which will continue throughout the Foundation stage and beyond. The Music curriculum is closely linked to other curriculum areas, with whole class singing repertoire based upon the topics the pupils are learning about each term. The girls will build up a repertoire of songs, listen to a variety of music and respond to it through movement and discussion. They will also learn how to play different percussion instruments and explore ways of playing them in relation to the elements of music. The girls will improvise and compose in response to a variety of stimuli such as stories, poems or pictures where they are encouraged to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through music.

In the Autumn Term, activities include a Nativity performance and participation in the Carol Service, to which all parents are welcome. Later in the year, music performances centre around Easter celebrations and Founder's Day.

YEAR ONE PLAN

AUTUMN TERM 1

TOPIC: Britain – Where we live (Geography)

Looking at:

- London and Dulwich
- Our school and surroundings
- Local environment

AUTUMN TERM 2

TOPIC: Britain – How we used to live (Victorians)

Looking at:

- Life as a Victorian child – home/school/work
- Famous people from the past
- Toys and artefacts from the past
- Inventions

SPRING TERM

TOPIC: Going on safari

- Continents
- Country studies – Kenya and Nigeria
- Climate/vegetation/food/animals/population/flag/Swahili language
- African Folktales / Tinga tinga stories

SUMMER TERM

TOPIC: Space

Looking at:

- Solar systems
- History of space exploration
- Tim Peake
- Space ships
- Aliens

FRENCH (all terms)

The girls will continue to learn French in immersion through speaking and listening activities. They will be introduced to writing and reading but the focus will remain on practical activities and games. They will consolidate vocabulary learned in Reception and learn new vocabulary on a range of topics such as numbers to 60, food, weather, the days of the week, classroom objects, clothes, family, asking for something, likes and dislikes and the months of the year. French songs will be taught according to the topics covered in their French lessons or other curriculum subjects. In French Games, the girls will learn practical language through games and physical activities and further develop their understanding of the language.

MUSIC (all terms)

Music at the Pre-Prep is taught as a practical subject, with activities including performing, composing, listening and appraising. The girls will learn to play classroom instruments with increasing skill and control of the elements of music; they will build up a bank of songs and will be introduced to a variety of music from around the world, of different genres and from different time periods. They will also learn about basic notation, how to follow a conductor and performance etiquette.

Pulse, tempo, dynamics, rhythm and duration.

Activities will include:

1. Playing and moving in time with the beat at different speeds
2. Creating sounds of different lengths
3. Playing and creating rhythms
4. Harvest, Christmas and topic songs
5. Creating Spring soundscapes
6. Composing music in response to different stimuli (stories, poems, pictures)



YEAR TWO PLAN

AUTUMN TERM 1

TOPIC: London (Geography)

1. The United Kingdom
2. Compass and mapping skills
3. Landmarks of London
4. School Trip to the London Eye (TBC)

AUTUMN TERM 2

TOPIC: London in the Past (History)

1. The Great Fire of London
2. The Plague
3. Samuel Pepys' Diary
4. School Trip to St. Paul's Cathedral for Great Fire of London Workshop (TBC)

SPRING TERM 1

TOPIC: Oceans of the World

1. Oceans of the World
2. Ocean Habitats

SPRING TERM 2

TOPIC: Hawaii

1. Hawaii – climate, location, land features on a map
2. Exploring physical and human geography
3. Mapping skills

SUMMER TERM

TOPIC: France and French Art (Geography & History)

1. Where France is in Europe and mapping.
2. A study of a variety of French artists.
3. French culture.
4. Travel in France.
5. Trip to the National Gallery (tbc)



FRENCH (all terms)

The girls will learn French in full immersion and will be expected to use French only in lessons to encourage them to become more active and independent speakers. They will continue to develop their writing and reading skills in the target language but the focus will remain on practical activities and games. They will consolidate vocabulary learnt in Year 1 and will learn new vocabulary on a range of topics such as the months of the year, the seasons, numbers to 100, food, verbs, alphabet, parts of the body, likes and dislikes, money, French handwriting and artists. French songs will be taught according to the topics covered in their French lessons or other curriculum topics.

In French Games, the girls will continue to learn practical language through games and physical activities and further develop their understanding of the language.

MUSIC (all terms)

Music at the Pre-Prep is taught as a practical subject, with activities including performing, composing, listening and appraising. Pupils will learn to play classroom instruments with increasing skill and control of the elements of music; they will build up a bank of songs and will be introduced to a variety of music from around the world, of different genres and from different time periods. They will learn about standard notation and how to use this to read and play simple rhythms and pitches.

The girls will explore the basic elements of music such as: rhythm, texture, timbre, pitch, dynamics and structure.

Activities will include:

- Playing rhythms by ear and from simple notation
- Improvising and composing rhythms
- Playing rhythms in different combinations as an ensemble
- Songs with two parts, topic songs and those for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Founder's Day
- Composing music in response to different stimuli (poems, stories, pictures, nursery rhymes).

DRAMA (all terms)

All girls in Year 2 have a weekly drama lesson. These lessons are designed to enhance the girls' confidence and introduce them to some basic acting skills. Through teaching drama, we aim to encourage and develop:

- creativity
- sensitivity
- listening skills
- communication skills - verbal and non-verbal
- physical awareness
- spatial awareness
- teamwork
- appraisal skills
- lasting enjoyment of drama

LEARNING ENRICHMENT DEPARTMENT('LED')

The LED works across the Junior School. Learning Enrichment is given on the recommendation of the Class Teachers and in liaison with parents for girls requiring individual work. This may involve specific support or extension activities for the girls. The basic curriculum areas covered are Reading, Writing, Spelling, Maths and EAL. The sessions are multi-sensory so that the girls are able to use a combination of visual, auditory and kinaesthetic approaches to reinforce their learning.

The LED can provide short bursts or longer periods of assistance, either within class or, where necessary, the girls can receive strategies outside the classroom in groups or individually.

The staff are available to advise on the different activities and to discuss the progress of the girls. The staff are also available on Parents' Evening.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

In addition to our comprehensive French teaching programme, at the Pre-Prep we actively celebrate the ethnic diversity and other additional languages spoken by our pupils and their families.

A form for girls new to the school is given to parents, so that you can let us know whether your daughter has access to a language other than English in your family. We encourage parents to fully develop their daughter's ability in their home language both as a lifelong skill and to support acquisition of English. We also provide opportunities for pupils to share their experiences of world cultures and their additional language skills.

The Pre-Prep has a specialist support for girls who are developing their English as an Additional Language for learning. This may take place in the classroom or in a small group environment. Class teachers, together with the Learning Enrichment Department, identify pupils for whom this is appropriate. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have with class teachers, the French teachers or the LED teachers.

WELL-BEING THROUGH ARTS AND PLAY

These sessions are tailored to meet individual needs. They aim to help the girls with concentration, listening skills, confidence, creativity, self-expression or social and emotional issues. Miss Adjei is a teacher and practitioner who has developed a programme for girls at the Pre-Prep to help them enhance their learning both in and out of the classroom.



James Allen's Girls' School

Ages 4-18

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