



Guide

2025-26

Welcome to Weston Green Little Prep

Choosing the right start for your child's educational journey is one of the most important decisions you will make. At Little Prep, the dedicated provision for 2 to 4 year olds at Weston Green, we understand just how special these first steps are. That's why we've created a nurturing, enriching and inspiring environment where children can flourish.

Rooted in the belief that every child deserves a happy and purposeful beginning, Little Prep offers a truly unique start to school life. Our bespoke Bright Beginnings curriculum blends the best of the Early Years Foundation Stage with carefully planned play, exciting themes and meaningful experiences — all tailored to

each child's interests and stage of development.

Set within the grounds of our thriving independent school, Little Prep is the perfect place for children to grow in confidence, develop early skills and build friendships that will support a smooth transition into Reception and beyond. Whether your child is exploring their creativity, taking part in specialist French or music lessons, or simply enjoying the magic of story time in our Little Prep Library, every day is filled with opportunities to wonder, discover and thrive.

Welcome to Little Prep — Bright Beginnings for Brilliant Futures.



Our aims

- To provide a warm, safe and stimulating environment where children feel happy and confident
- To nurture each child's natural curiosity and creativity through purposeful play
- To prepare children socially, emotionally and academically for a seamless transition into Reception and beyond
- To partner closely with families as the first educators of their children
- To instil our school values of ambition, curiosity and kindness

What we offer

- Our unique Bright Beginnings curriculum grounded in the Early Years Foundation Stage and enhanced by rich experiences
- Child-led and adult-guided learning tailored to each child's development
- Specialist lessons in sport, French and music, as well as 'Movement & Mindfulness' - a session that incorporates yoga, stretching, balance and techniques to support positive mental health
- A reading-rich environment with a Little Prep Library and age-appropriate pre-reading scheme with a focus on oracy and comprehension and the introduction of more formal reading once ready
- Frequent theme days such as Mini Zoo Day, STEM Explorers, Little Chefs, Under the Sea and People Who Help Us
- Delicious and nutritious meals are provided throughout the day, including a breakfast buffet, a freshly cooked hot lunch and a hot supper during the autumn and spring terms, with a mix of hot and cold suppers offered in the summer
- Regular updates through Parenta, stay & play sessions, whole school bulletins and informative parents' evenings
- Early development of life-ready skills through our SkillQuest programme



Bright Beginnings Curriculum

A Unique Start to a Lifelong Love of Learning

At Weston Green Little Prep, our bespoke Bright Beginnings curriculum gives children a joyful, purposeful start to their education. Grounded in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), it goes beyond national expectations to offer a unique blend of curiosity-driven learning, structured exploration and warm, responsive teaching.

What makes Bright Beginnings different?

Play with Purpose



Learning in Little Prep is immersive and meaningful. Play is the vehicle through which we explore early concepts in English, maths, science and the wider world. Whether it's running a role-play café, investigating shadows outside, or retelling traditional tales with puppets, children are learning in ways that feel natural, exciting and relevant.

Personalised Progress



No two children are the same. That's why we use insightful interactions and continuous formative assessment to shape learning to each child's individual needs. Some may begin mark-making early, others might flourish through storytelling or imaginative play — every journey is celebrated and challenge is offered at the right moment for each learner.

Project-Based Themes



Each half-term is framed around a captivating theme that connects different areas of learning. Our thematic curriculum takes place in the mornings and explores topics which invite deep exploration, child-led questioning and hands-on activities — all while embedding key EYFS objectives. Children are co-creators of the curriculum, helping to shape where their learning goes next. The afternoons transition to a more child-led approach, allowing for deeper engagement in areas of individual interest.

A Rich Specialist Offer



Children benefit from weekly sessions during term-time led by dedicated subject specialists in:

- **Music** – developing rhythm, pitch, expression and early notation
- **Sport** – building coordination and teamwork, developing gross motor skills and fostering a love of movement
- **'Movement & Mindfulness'** – supporting physical confidence and emotional regulation
- **French** – laying the foundations for language learning through song and storytelling

In addition, each of our Heads of Department leads an annual theme day in Little Prep, providing specialist sessions across the curriculum – for example, Maths Investigations Day, Science Explorers, Digital Discovery in Computing and Creative Arts Day.

Learning Journeys That Matter



Using Parenta, we capture and share moments of discovery, progress and happiness — helping families feel closely involved in their child's day-to-day experiences. Each child has a personal Learning Journey filled with observations, photos and reflections, forming a meaningful record of their growth.

Each of our specialist teachers designs their own enrichment days to captivate and inspire our Little Prep children. These carefully planned experiences bring their subjects to life—such as Little Inventors Day in science, Mini Olympics in PE, World Book Wonder Day in English, Autumn Art Week in art and Maths Treasure Hunt Day in maths. These memorable events deepen understanding and make learning truly engaging.

Ready for Prep



Every part of the Bright Beginnings curriculum is intentionally designed to prepare children for the next step into Reception at Weston Green.

By developing confidence, curiosity, independence and foundational knowledge, our pupils step up ready to thrive socially, emotionally and academically. Daily maths mastery and phonics activities begin, becoming more formalised in our pre-reception classes. When ready, children develop the skills needed to start writing cursively.





SkillQuest: Preparing for the Future

At Weston Green, even our youngest children begin to explore the skills that will prepare them for life. Our SkillQuest programme introduces foundational life skills in ways that are playful and age-appropriate.

In Little Prep, we focus on:

- **Exploring with Confidence** – being curious, trying new things and finding out what they like
- **Keeping on Going** – developing focus, resilience and pride in their efforts
- **Thinking of Ideas** – using imagination, making links and solving simple problems
- **Making Good Choices** – growing independence and learning to follow their own interests
- **Sharing and Listening** – building relationships through turn-taking, empathy and communication
- **Wondering with Purpose** – children are encouraged to be curious, ask thoughtful questions and link their learning in meaningful ways

These skills are gently woven into the day through play, stories, songs and conversations. As children grow, so too does their confidence and capability—laying the groundwork for a smooth and successful transition into Reception.

A Day in the Life

Every day at Little Prep is a new adventure. From first thing in the morning to home time, the day flows with rhythm and purpose, ensuring each child thrives at their own pace. Here's a glimpse into what a typical day might look like:

8:30am	Warm welcomes, coat pegs and free play in our indoor and outdoor learning areas
9:00am	Short whole-class carpet time, songs and story-based learning. Most learning is delivered to children in small, focused groups.
10:00am	Adult-led focus activity (e.g., phonics, number games, mark-making)
10:45am	Rolling snack and mindfulness moment, enabling children to continue their learning opportunities
11:15am	Outdoor learning, water play, outdoor learning area, or construction corner
12:00am	Lunch (freshly prepared and packed with variety)
1:00pm	Specialist session (Movement & Mindfulness/ French/Music/Sport)
2:00pm	Child-initiated exploration and themed play
3:00pm	Storytime and reflection circle
3:30pm	Pick up or optional extended care and enrichment

Smooth and Supportive Drop-off

At Little Prep, we understand that the start of the day sets the tone for your child's learning experience. Our drop-off routine is designed to be calm, welcoming and reassuring, helping children transition smoothly from home to our nurturing environment.

Upon arrival, children are greeted warmly by our dedicated educators, fostering a sense of belonging and security. We encourage families to share any updates or insights about their child's morning, ensuring continuity between home and school.

Children are then gently guided into engaging, child-led activities that spark curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. This seamless transition supports emotional well-being and sets the stage for a day filled with exploration and academic growth.

Restful Sleep and Quiet Time

Recognising the importance of rest in a child's development, Little Prep offers thoughtfully designed sleep and quiet time routines. Our sleep areas are transformed into cozy, tranquil spaces with dimmed lighting and soft music, creating an environment conducive to restful naps.

We collaborate closely with families to align nap schedules with each child's individual needs, gradually adjusting as they grow and their routines evolve. For children who no longer require naps, we provide serene 'quiet corners' where they can relax, read, or engage in gentle activities, ensuring they still benefit from restorative downtime.

These restful periods are integral to our holistic approach, supporting children's emotional balance and readiness to engage in the rich learning experiences that follow.

Holiday Provision

Themed events and enriching, fun activities take place during the holiday periods, alongside English and maths-focused circle times, to ensure a continuous and engaging year-round learning experience.





The Little Prep Library & Reading Scheme

Our Little Prep Library is a quiet, cosy corner where a love of stories begins. Children are introduced to high-quality picture books and early phonics through songs and rhymes, using the Sounds Write Phonics programme from 2 years old. Our bespoke pre-reading scheme begins when children are ready, ensuring that early readers are challenged while others develop confidence through listening and talking.

Trips and Visits

Learning beyond the classroom

At Little Prep, learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. Our programme of carefully chosen trips and visits extends children's understanding of the world around them and deepens the themes explored in our Bright Beginnings curriculum.

Whether it's a woodland walk to explore seasonal change, a visit to the local farm to learn about animals and food, or a theatre trip to bring stories to life, each outing is designed to spark curiosity and make learning meaningful. These experiences give children the chance to apply their knowledge in new environments, building confidence, communication skills and a growing sense of independence.

We also welcome regular visitors into Little Prep — from musicians and artists to scientists and community helpers — to bring new perspectives, enrich topic learning and show children the many exciting paths their learning can take.

These experiences are not only joyful and memorable but form part of our broader goal: preparing children for a rich, ambitious journey through school and life, full of discovery, connection and possibility.



Why choose us?

We offer...

A warm, **community-focused** environment where children are **known** and **celebrated**.

A proven **pathway** into our Reception and Prep School, with early **foundations built for life**.

A **values-led** curriculum that **nurtures** the whole child.

Strong **parental partnerships** and clear communication.

Small group sizes and **experienced** staff.

Specialist **enrichment** from the earliest stage.





Our Values In Action

At Little Prep, our school values are not just ideas – they are lived every day. These core principles form the bedrock of our approach to early education, guiding children as they grow, explore and prepare for their academic futures:

Ambition

We believe every child is capable of greatness. From the first steps of their learning journey, we encourage children to take brave steps, challenge themselves and be proud of their progress. Whether it's mastering their first word or solving a tricky puzzle, we celebrate the small victories and push for continuous improvement. This spirit of ambition is woven into our curriculum, encouraging every child to stretch their potential and build the self-confidence they need to tackle the next challenge with enthusiasm and resilience.

Curiosity

The heart of early learning is curiosity, and we nurture this by following children's natural interests, asking open-ended questions and providing ample opportunities for discovery. We give children the space to wonder, explore and make connections, turning everyday moments into rich learning experiences. Our curriculum is designed to ignite curiosity through play, exploration and hands-on activities that inspire children to ask questions, test ideas and deepen their understanding of the world around them. Curiosity is the spark that drives academic ambition, motivating children to seek knowledge and pursue learning with excitement and purpose.

Kindness

At Little Prep, kindness is at the core of everything we do. We model gentle words, turn-taking, sharing and empathy in all our interactions. From collaborating in group activities to supporting friends during independent play, kindness creates a harmonious and supportive environment where every child feels valued and safe. This nurturing environment allows children to thrive academically, knowing they are part of a community that encourages mutual respect and care. Kindness isn't just about being considerate – it's about fostering a mindset that values positive relationships and cooperation, essential skills as children move forward in their academic and personal journeys.

Preparation for Reception

A Confident Step into School Life

At Weston Green Little Prep, preparation for Reception begins long before children wear their first school jumper — it starts the moment they step through our doors. Every aspect of our setting, routines and curriculum is designed to ensure that the transition into full-time school life is not just smooth but exciting, empowering and joy-filled.

We believe that confident learners are happy learners. That's why we gently introduce the rhythms and expectations of school life in a way that feels natural, secure and engaging for each individual child.

From developing independence with self-care, to following routines and learning within a group, our Little Prep children begin to adopt the skills, attitudes and behaviours that form the foundation for success in Reception.

Our pre-Reception programme, introduced in the final year of Little Prep, offers increased opportunities for structured learning and challenge — while never losing the wonder and curiosity that defines early childhood. Children enjoy more formalised phonics and early writing and English sessions, take part in class-wide learning circles and begin to take ownership of their learning environment, readying themselves for the classroom dynamics of Reception.

Our approach to Reception readiness includes:

- Daily phonics sessions using the Sounds-Write programme focus on building the skills children need to begin writing confidently in cursive
- Maths mastery sessions using practical activities to build number fluency and problem-solving
- Planned opportunities for independence, including managing belongings, making choices and navigating the school day with growing confidence
- Close collaboration with Reception staff, ensuring each child is known and understood before they make the move
- Visits to the Reception classrooms, enabling familiarity with spaces, faces and new routines
- School-wide experiences, such as assemblies, school lunches and enrichment days, as well as regular opportunities to interact with older pupils, help Little Prep children build confidence, develop social skills and foster a sense of belonging in the wider Weston Green community

By the time our Little Prep pupils step up to Reception, they already feel at home. They are known by name, celebrated for who they are and ready — emotionally, socially and academically — for the new challenges ahead.

Little Steps with Big Purpose

We know that starting 'big school' is a milestone for both children and their families. That's why our preparation for Reception is thoughtful, personalised and deeply rooted in each child's journey. It's not about rushing readiness, but about nurturing the skills, mindset and confidence that will help every child flourish when the next chapter begins.

