



SHEBBEAR COLLEGE



HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO SHEBBEAR COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL

Welcome to Shebbear College Prep School and Pre-Prep. We are very proud of our school and we hope you will feel proud of it too. If you are a new parent, we are delighted that you have chosen our school and I am certain that your child will feel at home here and will quickly see themselves as a valued part of our school community. If you are a current parent, I hope that this handbook is a helpful source of information for you and your child.

The greatest strength of the school is undoubtedly the pupils themselves. They are genuinely friendly and welcoming, polite and well-mannered and are taught to treat each other with consideration and kindness. The school prides itself on its strong Christian ethos and an appreciation of the traditional Methodist values which underpin so much of our life here. There is a belief held throughout the school that everyone is an individual, is unique, and should be valued as such. We accept and celebrate our differences.

We are certainly a happy and friendly school. I know that our pupils feel safe and secure here and that they develop positive relationships with each other and with the staff. We want all our pupils to be confident and not afraid to express their thoughts and feelings or to share any worries or concerns they may have. There is always someone here who will listen, take an interest and offer support when it is needed. Staff are always available to meet with parents to deal with any issues that may arise, and as the Headteacher, I will always make myself available to discuss any concerns and answer enquiries.

It is my belief that the best learning takes place when our pupils are confident and there is excellent communication between teachers and pupils. Our pupils are enthusiastic and fully engaged in lessons and our commitment to small class sizes means that the children have ample opportunity to share their opinions and observations, ask thoughtful questions and to investigate and explore the world around them. Everyone within the school is encouraged to do their best and to take real pride in their work and our reward systems recognise and celebrate this effort and the inevitable achievement that goes with it.

Our staff in the Prep School work hard to ensure that the standard of teaching is high, and that it caters for different learning styles, meeting the individual needs and abilities of every pupil. We are committed to developing the full potential of our pupils and will always look for ways to nurture their particular strengths and interests. The school also has a strong reputation for its Learning Support Programme. We carry out thorough assessments of all our pupils and track their progress carefully and if a child needs additional help then this will be identified quickly, and they will receive all the support they need, delivered by specialist staff.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum here at Shebbear. This is enriched by an impressive range of extra-curricular activities, providing our pupils with numerous opportunities to develop their personal interests and also embrace new challenges.

We also recognise that the world is a competitive place and within our school we embrace the positive aspects of competition. We look to foster a real sense of togetherness and a collective pride in the individual and the school. We also look to develop resilience and a determination to persevere. As well as a comprehensive programme of team sports for all ages, we also encourage pupils to compete against other schools in music, drama, mathematics, creative writing, science and art events throughout the year and support this with a range of additional inter-house competitions.

Shebbear College, with its extensive grounds and facilities is a fabulous place to work and a wonderful environment in which to learn. Children have space to grow and develop and I believe that both our staff and pupils in the Prep School thrive here. It is my hope that your child will also thrive here and become a happy, confident, hard-working and successful learner. We shall certainly do everything we can to ensure that they do.

Matthew Foale

Head of Shebbear College Prep School



PREP SCHOOL STANDARDS

At Shebbear College Prep School we pride ourselves on:

- The high standards of teaching and learning
- The friendly and welcoming ethos of the school
- Our learning programmes tailored to the individual
- Outstanding pastoral care
- A broad and balanced curriculum
- The safe and secure learning environment
- High standards of behaviour
- The respect for tradition and strong Christian principles
- The comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities
- The extensive grounds and excellent facilities

At Shebbear College Prep School we expect our pupils to:

- Be proud of their school
- Treat each other with kindness and respect
- Be polite and well-mannered at all times
- Take pride in their appearance
- Support and encourage each other
- Respect and look after school property
- Work hard and always try their best



PREP SCHOOL STAFF 2023-24

Headteacher:

Mr M. Foale

Teaching Staff:

Head of Early Years Foundation Stage
(Reception Class)

Mrs C. Roadnight
croadnight@shebbearcollege.co.uk

Pre-Prep (Years 1 & 2)

Mrs K. Tibble
ktibble@shebbearcollege.co.uk

Years 3 & 4

Mrs D. Jones and Miss L. Emmerson
djones@shebbearcollege.co.uk
lemmerson@shebbearcollege.co.uk

Year 5

Mr S. Willetts
swilletts@shebbearcollege.co.uk

Year 6

Mr M. Foale
mfoale@shebbearcollege.co.uk

Teaching Assistants:

Reception

Mrs T Brock
tbrock@shebbearcollege.co.uk

Learning Support:

Mrs K. Clarke

**Head of Safeguarding and Pastoral Care
(Designated Safeguarding Lead):**

Mrs F. Lovett (Mr M. Foale is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, with oversight of the Prep School. Mrs C. Roadnight has oversight for the Reception Class).

Subject Specialist Teaching Staff:

Our Prep School classes enjoy lessons taught by subject specialists from the Senior School, including Art, Science, Music, Computing and French.



PREP SCHOOL DAY

Pupils should arrive promptly at all times:

8.20 - 8.30	Registration with tutors
8.30 - 9.30	Period 1
9.30 - 10.30	Period 2
10.30 - 10.50	Break & Snack
10.50 - 11.50	Period 3
11.50 - 1.00	Lunch
1.00 - 1.30	Registration & Assembly
1.30 - 2.30	Period 4
2.30 - 3.30	Period 5
3.30 - 3.45	Break & Snack
3.45 - 4.30	Activities
4.45	Buses depart

*Activities are optional, but most children choose to take part.

Break Times

Pupils are provided with two healthy snacks every day which range from seeded flapjacks and muffins to ham and cheese paninis and banana bread. Fresh fruit is also provided every day. Pupils do not need to bring in a snack from home.

Pupils should bring in a named reusable water bottle to use throughout the day. These bottles must be clearly labelled and must contain water only.

Lunch

Our school meals are healthy, fresh and delicious. We work with bespoke catering company, Thomas Franks and use local suppliers and fresh ingredients wherever possible to provide our pupils with nutritious, exciting options.

All allergens are carefully considered and catered for - Thomas Franks take this responsibility incredibly seriously. The team is provided with comprehensive training on differentiated allergen management procedures, other dietary needs and cooking bespoke food when needed. Please let us know if your child has any allergies or intolerances.

Pupils from the Prep School are first into the dining hall each day to have their lunch, with timings for each class staggered so that long queues are avoided. Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants sit with pupils during lunch. This is a great opportunity for informal conversation and also enables staff to ensure that all pupils eat a balanced diet and demonstrate good table manners.

When pupils go out on a school trip, packed lunches are prepared for every child.

End of day arrangements and school buses

At the end of the day pupils who are travelling home with their parents gather in one of our Prep School classrooms, where they are supervised by a member of the teaching staff until their parents arrive to collect them.

A large number of our pupils from the Prep School travel to and from school on the school buses. In the mornings when the school buses arrive, Senior School pupils and our Prep Prefects will escort them from the buses into the school buildings.

At the end of each day, all the pupils from the Pre-Prep and Prep School who are travelling home on the buses meet in one of our classrooms where they are registered before being escorted to their buses by members of the teaching staff. No pupil leaves to go to the buses until every child is marked present on the bus register and no pupil goes unescorted to their bus. Pupils should always be in school uniform when travelling home, whether it is in their parent's car or on the school bus.

Bus Chaperones

Pupils in Prep 4 and above are able to travel independently on transport provided by the school. For pupils in Prep 3 and below, we operate a Bus Chaperone Policy whereby they are able to travel on school transport, provided they are accompanied both to and from school by a chaperone (an older pupil at Shebbear College known to the child). Please see the policy (available on our website or from Reception) for more details.

Homework

Homework is set for Prep School pupils (Years 3 – 6), and on an occasional basis for Pre-Prep pupils (Years R, 1 and 2) in addition to or instead of reading. The time spent completing pieces of homework depends on the age of the pupils:

Years Reception, 1 and 2: 15 minutes reading each night

Years 3 and 4: 20 minutes homework plus 15 minutes reading each night

Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes homework plus 15 minutes reading each night

Homework should be well presented and handed in at the correct time.

PREP SCHOOL ORGANISATION

The Prep School is presently organised as follows:

- Reception Class (Early Years Foundation Stage & part of the Pre-Prep)
- Prep 1 and 2 (Pre-Prep)
- Prep 3 and 4
- Prep 5
- Prep 6

Prep School Prefects

At the start of the new school year the Headteacher appoints a Head Girl and a Head Boy from amongst the Year 6 pupils. Along with the school Prefects and House Captains, they form the Prep School's Prefect Team. It is a great honour to become a Prefect or House Captain and with the position comes certain responsibilities. The Prefects are considered to be ambassadors for the school. They are expected to set an example to other pupils with their behaviour, manners, appearance and attitude to their work. They are also given specific roles and responsibilities throughout the year.

These include:

- Showing visitors around our school.
- Looking after new pupils or pupils visiting the school for taster days.
- Organising pupils at assemblies and other school events.
- Collecting, organising and putting away resources for staff.
- Providing pastoral care for younger pupils.
- Meeting and greeting parents and visitors at school events such as concerts, plays or recitals.
- Making announcements, introducing events and performing readings at Prep School assemblies, services and events.

School Houses

When a new pupil joins Shebbear College Prep School, they are put into one of the four school Houses, each named after a past Headmaster of the College:

Ruddle House

Way House

Thorne House

Pollard House

If a new pupil has a sibling already attending the College then they will automatically be placed into the same house. Throughout the year Pupils in the Prep School will take part in a range of Inter-house competitions, maintaining a friendly rivalry. These competitions will include sports fixtures, quizzes and major events. Team house points may be awarded for success in these competitions.

House points will also be awarded to individual pupils throughout the year for reasons such as: academic success, effort, kindness, and good manners or for representing the school in a positive way.

A record of the house points will be kept and at the end of the year the house with the most points will be presented with the House Points Cup. The team name will also be recorded on the School's Honours Board.

Each house may have a House Captain, chosen by the Headteacher from amongst the Year 6 pupils at the start of the academic school year or there maybe prefects chosen who are not linked with a particular House. The three House Captains or the Prefects form part of the School Prefect Team along with the Head Boy and Head Girl.

School Council

The School Council is made up of one girl and one boy from each year group in the school. The Council members are elected at the beginning of the year by the pupils in their respective classes. It is the responsibility of those Council members to listen to their classmates and report on issues that are brought to their attention.

Every three weeks, the Prep School Council will meet to discuss:

- On-going concerns of pupils
- Issues that have arisen throughout the previous weeks
- Suggestions for improvements to the school
- Decisions regarding the future of the school
- Decisions regarding the expenditure of School Council funds
- Organising fund-raising and charity events

PREP SCHOOL REWARDS

House Points

Central to the philosophy of our school is a desire to celebrate the success of our pupils in all its forms. We want the children to feel that their efforts are valued but also to make them feel proud of themselves and of each other. House Team points are awarded for:

- Excellent work
- An outstanding achievement
- Great effort
- Pleasing progress
- Kind and thoughtful behaviour
- Good manners
- Perseverance
- Enthusiasm

Prep School Colours

Colours will be awarded for outstanding contributions to school life in five particular areas.

- Sport
- Music
- Art
- Speech and Drama
- Citizenship

These colours will be awarded for contributions to these aspects of school life over a sustained period and are therefore unlikely to be awarded to any pupil until they are in Year 5 or Year 6.

Weekly awards include a Manners Medal and BAFTA (Behaviour Award for Thoughtful Actions) and class teachers award Golden Stickers each week.

PREP SCHOOL UNIFORM

PREP SCHOOL UNIFORM LIST (RECEPTION - PREP 6)

It is the responsibility of all Shebbearians to ensure that they are well groomed and neatly and appropriately dressed at all times, including when off the school campus. You should wear the correct school uniform on all school occasions.

In the summer term and the first half of the autumn term (if the weather is suitably warm), summer uniform is worn by all Prep School pupils.

All uniform is available to purchase via www.schoolblazer.com

Winter uniform

- Shebbear College navy wool blazer
- Prep School navy and red v-necked jumper or cardigan
- School tartan pinafore (knee length or sitting no more than 1 inch above the knee), charcoal tailored trousers or charcoal tailored shorts.

- White collared shirt
- Pre-Prep tie (Reception - Prep 2) or House tie (Prep 3 - 6)
- Navy tights or navy long socks (with pinafore), grey socks (with trousers or shorts).
- Smart black leather polished shoes (no heels, ballerina pumps or trainers, including Air Force)
- Waterproof black coat (non branded, Samurai or Schoolblazer black crested softshell jacket all accepted. Please note the softshell jacket does not have a hood).
- Navy crested book bag

Summer uniform

- Shebbear College navy wool blazer
- Prep School navy and red v-necked jumper or cardigan
- School summer dress, charcoal tailored trousers or charcoal tailored shorts.
- White collared shirt (with trousers or shorts)
- Pre-Prep tie (Reception - Prep 2) or House tie (Prep 3 - 6) (with shirt - not applicable with summer dress)
- Grey socks (with trousers or shorts) or white ankle socks (with summer dress).
- Smart black leather polished shoes (no heels, ballerina pumps or trainers, including Air Force)
- Waterproof black coat (non branded, Samurai or Schoolblazer black crested softshell jacket all accepted. Please note the softshell jacket does not have a hood).
- Navy crested book bag

Sports kit

- Black crested midlayer top
- Red crested PE polo
- Reversible rugby shirt (compulsory for boys in years 4 - 6 only)
- Black crested rugby shorts (compulsory for boys in years 4 - 6 only)
- Black crested PE shorts or black crested skort
- Black crested training pants
- House polo
- Games socks
- Navy crested rucksack
- Trainers
- Astro trainers
- Football/Rugby boots are compulsory for Football and Rugby;
- Mouthguards are compulsory for Hockey and Rugby;
- Shin Pads are compulsory for Football and Hockey.
- Water bottles for all students are compulsory at sports sessions.

General

- Jewellery - one small stud per earlobe.
- Hair - must be neat and tidy and off the face; it should not cover the eyes. Hair longer than shoulder length should be fully tied back. Hair should not be dyed in an unnatural colour. No extreme haircuts are permitted. Hair accessories should be the school colours of navy, black, red or gold.
- Nails - a reasonable length, with no varnish
- All appearances should avoid extremes of fashion.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Pupils will be given all the exercise books and textbooks that are required. A homework diary is used to record work that is set and reminders to help pupils with their organisation. It should be signed weekly by parents and by the pupil's class teacher.

The homework diary also contains a record of academic merits that have been awarded to a pupil and the reason for them, so that parents can share in their success. It also helps a pupil see how they are progressing towards their certificates of achievement.

Pupils will need a Shebbear College homework bag (book bag) to carry their homework to and from school as well as their reading book, reading record and any letters that are sent home. They will also need to purchase a Shebbear College school bag for PE and Games kit. Both of these items are available from the Prep School.

Pupils will also need their own pencil case containing:

- 2 pencils
- 1 ruler
- 1 pair of compasses
- 1 protractor
- 1 rubber
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 glue stick
- 1 set of colouring pencils

Prep 5+ 6 pupils will also need 2 handwriting pens (black ink)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Medical issues

Our Health and Wellbeing Centre is open daily for day pupils as well as boarders. Every member of the Prep School Staff has an updated First Aid qualification, some with a Paediatric First Aid certificate, and will therefore take responsibility for any minor bumps, bruises and abrasions. However, pupils will be referred to the Health & Wellbeing Centre for all other medical issues and for any medicines that need administering – these should be brought into school and handed to a member of staff together with a letter stating the dose and time to be taken.

Money, mobile phones and valuables

Our pupils should not have money with them at school. On the rare occasion it is necessary to bring money to school, it should be given to a member of staff first thing in the morning and be collected at the end of the day.

We do not allow pupils to have any mobile or electronic devices with them at school at any time. However, they are allowed to use them when travelling on the school buses before the start and at the end of the school day. Teachers will collect in all devices during morning register and return them before pupils are escorted to their buses. A good deal of time is spent reinforcing E-Safety in the Prep School, developing knowledge, awareness and an understanding of the need to responsibility.

Absences

If a child is absent from school for any reason, we ask that parents notify us before 8:30am by emailing reception@shebbearcollege.co.uk and copying in the class teacher, or calling 01409 282000 and leaving a message on the absence line. Please inform us in this way every day your child is absent, unless you have informed us of a specific date that your child will return to school.

If you wish to take a family holiday during term time then you should seek permission from the school by e-mailing, phoning or speaking directly to Mr Foale.

Concerns

If you have any concerns, then you should speak to your child's class teacher or Mr Foale as soon as possible. They can be contacted at any time during the school term and will be available to speak to you immediately, unless they are teaching at the time.



Contacts

School Reception: 01409 282000 or reception@shebbearcollege.co.uk

Mr Matthew Foale: mfoale@shebbearcollege.co.uk

Health and Wellbeing Centre: hawc@shebbearcollege.co.uk

THE PREP SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Reception Class (EYFS)

Our Reception Class is fully integrated in Prep School life and our curriculum takes on the best from the DfE Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidelines, enhanced by our own initiatives. Our pupils have access to all of the school's resources including the safe and extensive rural campus and an excellent sports hall. Visits to the Library, Music Centre and Science block are regular occurrences; providing the children with a range of varied environments in which to play and explore. Music, French and PE are all part of our weekly timetable.

The initial phase of a young person's education is both exciting and rewarding. In the Reception Class, we provide a reassuring, challenging, safe and happy environment for young children. We believe in promoting the independence and social skills of all the children in our care; encouraging them to grow into happy and confident children as they learn through play in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Through our observations and focusing on the interests of the pupils, topics are planned which will develop and enhance their learning in a fun and challenging way. Children are encouraged to play outside at any time of the day.

Following the Early Learning Foundation Stage, the seven areas of learning (communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy; mathematics; understanding the world and expressive arts and design) are delivered through a balance of adult led and child-initiated activities. None of these areas can be delivered in isolation from the others; they are equally important and depend on each other.

Literacy, Numeracy and other planned activities take place each day, covering a variety of areas of learning in a fun and imaginative way, and topics are planned around the children's varied interests. Our staff place great emphasis on nurturing children's interest in books and stories from an early age and at the end of each day they are encouraged to change their sharing book, which they then take home, and each day finishes with a story on the sofa.

During your child's time in the Reception Class, their Learning Journey is recorded. This is a snapshot of observations about their on-going development and activities they have taken part in and is readily available for you to see and add to. At the end of each term the Learning Journal will be sent home for you to share and enjoy, and when your child moves on through the school they will be given to you.

Pre-Prep and Prep School

Our curriculum builds on from these solid foundations for learning. In the Pre-Prep (Years 1 & 2), emphasis is placed on the teaching of the basic skills in English, Maths and Science to ensure that vital building blocks are put in place which will enable pupils to access the many learning opportunities that they will have during their time at school. At the same time our staff here share the belief that learning should be exciting, challenging and take into account the many different ways in which children learn.

High standards of teaching and learning are planned for and implemented, with teachers and teaching assistants adopting different approaches. They use a range of resources that will enable every child, whatever their ability, to make accelerated progress. At the same time, they aim to develop pupils' independence, equipping them with the skills necessary to make choices for themselves and give them the confidence to back their own judgement, without fear of getting things wrong.

We feel our curriculum is rich and varied, offering our pupils many different experiences. We believe that every child has their own particular set of gifts and talents and the broader our curriculum, the more opportunities every child will have to showcase them.

We are aware, of course, that some children will require extra support to help them acquire the basic skills in reading, writing and Maths, if they are to develop into confident and independent learners. Clear individual educational programmes (IEPs) are in place for any child that needs them and are delivered through one-to-one sessions, small group work and in general classroom support.

We have introduced into the school a thorough and rigorous system for assessing and monitoring children's progress in English and Mathematics from the time they start in Reception to Prep 6, through to the Senior School. This enables us to track the progress of every child in the school to ensure that we are meeting their needs, that they have clear targets and are achieving the accelerated levels of progress we expect of them.

English

From a very early age we want our pupils to develop a love of books, of stories of all kinds and indeed of the written word in its many forms and we hope in turn that this will encourage them to become capable and enthusiastic writers themselves.

In the Pre-Prep classes we follow quite a structured and rigorous approach to teaching reading so that the children are equipped with a solid phonetic understanding and have learned the common/key words they need to help them to develop into fluent and confident readers. We make sure they have plenty of opportunities to practise their reading and we encourage parents to support this at home. We also put a great deal of emphasis on encouraging our pupils to talk about the books they read and comment thoughtfully on them. In this way we are developing in each child a real understanding and comprehension of the texts they read.

We try to promote a wide range of story genres and a variety of text types through the books our teachers share with the children in lessons and assemblies, through close links with the school library and by encouraging our pupils to share books with one another. Each year we also invite in authors to talk to the children which helps capture their interest and fuel their desire to read and to write more.

We want our children to become confident writers who can turn their hand to a range of different text types and writing styles. We work hard to develop the basic skills in handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation, but at the same time we look to fuel the children's imagination and creativity – encouraging them to write for a range of purposes and audiences. Drama is used extensively, both in the classroom and as an activity in its own right, to develop these ideas for writing, to explore aspects of their reading and to develop the children's capacity for self-expression.

A very thorough programme is put in place to meet the needs of those pupils that take longer to master the basics of reading and writing, involving one-to-one and small group support coordinated by our Learning Support teacher.

For our more able pupils we liaise with Senior School staff to develop special programmes and challenges for them and have set up extra teaching sessions for our most gifted writers.

Mathematics

We want all our pupils to develop into flexible and independent learners and this is as true in Maths as in any other subject. We believe that the most able mathematicians are those that recognise for themselves that

there are different ways of tackling problems and are equipped with the skills and understanding to be able to make their own choices.

By making children aware of different methods, rather than focusing on a singular approach, we believe that our pupils become more adept at using and applying their knowledge and understanding of Maths concepts which then helps them to tackle a wide range of problems and investigations with real confidence. It also recognises that different children learn in different ways and what is a good way for one is not always true for another.

This confidence with numbers and ability to make independent decisions comes often, we believe, from an ability to work with numbers confidently and quickly in your head and so we also put a great deal of emphasis in the Prep School on developing mental Maths skills in all our pupils from a very early age.

As with all subjects, clear structured support is given to those who struggle with aspects of their Maths work as part of our learning support programme and at the same time we also strive to challenge our more gifted mathematicians through clearly differentiated programmes of work.

We employ a specialist Maths teacher from within the Senior School to plan and deliver the curriculum to our Prep 6 pupils, which ensures a seamless transition for pupils from KS2 to KS3. Our more gifted mathematicians are also entered for the National Junior Maths Challenge every year.

Science

Here in the Prep School, we recognise Science as a core subject and a fundamental and vital part of every child's learning. From the time any child starts with us, we look to promote in them a real sense of fascination of the world around them and a desire to ask why and how?

As well as imparting knowledge and understanding of different aspects of science, we look to encourage pupils to discover things for themselves, to investigate through a range of first hand experiences and to question what they see. As they go through the Prep School we then try to challenge them further, to prove their theories and ideas and begin to devise fair tests and investigations for themselves.

We employ specialist Science teachers to plan and deliver the curriculum to KS2 pupils and they make use of the extensive resources at our disposal – including areas of woodland, ponds, fields and meadows, as well as the Senior School laboratories.

We have a long term working relationship with the RHS staff at Rosemoor Garden in Torrington and all our pupils visit their Education Centre regularly as part of an on-going natural science and environmental studies programme.

Humanities

We strongly believe that many areas of the curriculum, including History, Geography, and Religious Education are best taught through exciting and challenging activities that form part of on-going cross-curricular topics.

By using a rich and varied range of resources, as well as planning a number of educational visits and visitors for our pupils, we believe we bring many of these topics to life for them. We try to give them first hand experiences of how different people live or have lived in the past and to assist with this, we have a number of trips relating to the curriculum. Our pupils also look at how their natural environments have changed and are changing and develop their appreciation of man's impact on the world.

As part of their Geography and Environmental studies, pupils will also look at the work of the Fair Trade organisation, a charity with which the College has developed strong links over the last few years.

ICT

We are always looking to see how advancements in ICT can be best used to enrich the learning experiences of all our pupils. Interactive whiteboards and Chromebook laptops are now used in all classes and are readily available for pupils to support learning and source valuable information, quickly and effortlessly.

Our pupils are also taught a range of ICT skills every week in the College's IT suites. There is also a strong emphasis on E-Safety, with the children learning about responsibility, laws and understanding, regarding the use and misuse of some electronic devices.

Art

We offer our pupils a very rich and varied art curriculum delivered by both our own staff and specialist teachers within the department itself. Our pupils enjoy the opportunity to work with a much greater range of art mediums and materials, develop valuable skills and express their individual creativity. Prep School artwork regularly wins awards at the Burton Art Gallery exhibitions and other local Art Festivals.

Drama

As well as using drama as an effective teaching tool in many subject areas, the Prep School has always recognised it as a valuable subject in its own right, showcasing the talents of certain children but also encouraging all pupils to explore different ways of expressing themselves, considering a range of social issues and developing their confidence to perform in front of others.

A drama club is run each week by a specialist teacher as part of our 'activities' programme and at the end of the year all the children in the school perform in a production to their parents.

In addition to this, some of our more gifted thespians are given the opportunity to attend a specialist drama teaching programme in association with LAMDA and to enter the North Devon Performing Arts Festival, where we have been very successful in recent years.

Music

There are considerable opportunities available to our pupils to learn Music here in the Prep School, in timetabled lessons but also as part of an extensive programme of tuition offered by our Music Department. Our pupils have access to our specialist Music Centre, which is a wonderful facility.

Throughout the year, formal and informal opportunities are also given for many of these pupils to perform in front of audiences of parents and pupils, in assemblies, recitals, the music section of the North Devon Performing Arts Festival and annual services, as well as our own Music Concerts.

Modern Foreign Languages

We are very aware in the Prep School that we live in an increasingly global world and it has never been more important than it is now, that our children are equipped with the skills necessary to maximise the opportunities that this offers. Therefore, all pupils, including those in the Reception Class, receive timetabled lessons in French and/or Spanish.

Sport

Great emphasis is placed in the Prep School on the role and value of sports and physical activity in contributing to our pupils' overall development, health and well-being.

As well as promoting healthy lifestyles, we recognise how sport contributes to pupils' confidence, their pride in themselves (and in their school) and how it fosters teamwork, support and leadership.

We are fortunate on our staff to have a number of qualified and enthusiastic sports coaches and we are therefore able to run a comprehensive range of team sports, as well as promoting other sports as part of our activities programme.

There are fixtures for either Under 9 and Under 11 teams most weeks of the school year, and for a small school we have achieved considerable success over the last few years in a number of sports; most notably in rugby, cricket, hockey, netball, football, cross-country running and gymnastics.

For some of their PE and Games lessons, as well as some of our extra-curricular sports activities, our pupils are coached by members of the Senior School PE staff. This means that as well as benefitting from their expertise, the children have the opportunity to use the all-weather AstroTurf hockey pitches, tennis courts and the Sports Hall.

Throughout the year we have home and away fixtures for the following sports:

- Rugby
- Netball
- Football
- Hockey
- Cricket
- Cross-Country Running
- Gymnastics
- Rounders
- Duathlon

A number of our gifted and talented Under 11 sportsmen and women get the opportunity to play in additional fixtures for the under 12 and under 13 Senior School teams during the course of the year.

In addition to these weekly fixtures our Prep School Teams are involved in a number of leagues, tournament and events throughout the year.

Through our Games and PE curriculum we also coach the children in tennis, unihoc, athletics, badminton, volleyball and basketball.

Our athletics programme, for both track and field events, runs through the summer term and culminates in a competitive sports day between our three House Teams who compete for our Sports Day Trophy. We also run inter-house sports events and competitions throughout the year within the Prep School.

Every child in Prep 1 - 6 completes an eight-week programme of swimming lessons as part of our PE curriculum at a local pool.

PSHE, Life Skills and Moral and Spiritual Well-being

Shebbear College is a Methodist School and the academic year reflects the Christian traditions of our country. Christianity is studied as the core religion as befitting a church foundation school where there is a real sense of community with a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Our children have several assemblies each week, a timetabled PSHE / Life Skills lesson, and time with their class teachers. Relationships between children are extremely important, and we recognise the essential part that awareness of anti-bullying (including cyber-bullying) can play. The children rise to the challenge of being upstanding citizens, with a good moral backbone, as well as a sense of justice and what is right and wrong.

However, Shebbear College is also a multi-cultural school and so our pupils also learn about different world religions and are encouraged to find out more about different countries and cultures. Consequently, they are taught to respect and celebrate different lifestyles and beliefs.

At Shebbear College we also help our pupils to understand their responsibility to the wider community and to those who are in need. Through established links such as World Aims in Methodist Schools and Fair Trade, our pupils are encouraged to become active in helping others and to contribute towards national and local charities such as Children in Need, Comic Relief, Christian Aid, Children's Hospice and The Alzheimer's Society. In addition, we are always delighted to hear from our colleagues in the Senior School with their news regarding their links in Uganda. It is my hope that we will establish stronger links with these Ugandan schools ourselves in the near future.

Curriculum Enrichment

In order to make our curriculum a real and relevant one for all our pupils, we put a great emphasis on using the 'wider classroom' and taking opportunities to explore and learn about our outdoor environments, our local surroundings and the world beyond.

As a staff we look to enrich the children's learning experiences through a range of educational visits and visitors who are invited in to speak to the children and share their experiences.





Activities

As well as offering our pupils a rich and diverse curriculum we also continue to develop their all-round education through a comprehensive extra-curricular programme in the activity sessions run at the end of each school day. Activities are not compulsory, but most children choose to take part.

Pupils are given a choice of activities that they chose, with each activity running for the duration of the term. However, pupils can change activities during the term if they wish.

The selection of activities changes each term and may include some of the following:

Under 9 Netball	Under 11 Netball	Under 9 Football
Under 11 Football	Under 11 Rugby	Under 9 Rugby
Under 11 Cricket	Under 9 Cricket	Tennis
Under 11 Hockey	Unihoc	Athletics
Dance	Martial Arts	Cross Country Running
Gymnastics	Ceramics	Creative Club
Science Club	Forest School	Chess/ Board Games
Computer Club	Cookery	Construction Club
School Choir	Drama Production	Art Club
World Aims	Pre-Prep Club	Outdoor Club
Drama	Lego	Gardening



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