



Nursery and Preparatory

Springmead's Philosophy and Aims

Our belief is that at school children should not only become numerate and literate, but also develop a hunger for knowledge and a thirst for learning, whether this is in academic areas, sports or arts. Children need to be guided to become self-learners, to think wisely, be confident, balanced and compassionate, while developing their own particular talents and abilities to the full. Such principles are best achieved in an environment that is stable, secure and safe, but at the same time one that is exciting, rich, stimulating, rewarding and fun.

At Springmead these ideals are achieved through the following clearly defined aims:

- 1 to see each child as an individual with unique needs and possibilities
- 2 to teach children in small classes
- 3 to use the best of traditional and modern teaching practices, in the classroom and beyond
- 4 to ensure pupils work towards and beyond national age-related expectations in literacy and maths, but at the same time to maintain a very strong commitment to a fulfilling curricular experience across all subjects
- 5 to provide a rich variety of academic, artistic, sporting and social enrichment experiences through an extensive extra-curricular programme, allowing children to find and nurture their talents
- 6 to teach children how to become effective, resilient, reflective and resourceful self-learners
- 7 to teach sound human values, implicitly and explicitly
- 8 to provide dedicated, professional and caring staff
- 9 to forge strong partnerships between home and school
- 10 to provide an inspirational, happy and supportive environment.

The school is totally committed to its purpose and is confident of its ability to be entrusted with the life, education, possibilities and future of each prospective pupil. Children leave in Year 6 to go on to the best local independent and state schools. Importantly our pupils are fulfilled, have a strong sense of self-worth and have begun to develop a life-long love of learning in their time at Springmead.

Your child...

IS WELCOME

'I feel very proud of our truly independent school. From the moment they arrive, Springmead children are nurtured and supported, seen and heard as individuals, and inspired to make the most of their unique learning journey.'

Springmead children leave carrying our values and ready to fly. They go on to succeed, able to seize each day, confident and independent. They are happy children making excellent progress. At Springmead every child gets an outstanding start.'

Madeleine Taylor
Principal



Carpe Diem

Your child...

NURSERY



Your child will become immersed in a world of play and discovery, music and creativity at Springmead Nursery. A colourful and caring place where imaginations are ignited and there's always something going on: our Ducklings get off to a super start! Whether out in the school grounds, being creative with paint, sand or water, dressing up, using the interactive white board, or sitting quietly with a book – each day is full of variety. As your child becomes ready, a gentle introduction to letters and shapes, sounds and rhyme, French and numbers, is built into their day.

Familiar Nursery routines help children settle and are a secure base from which our youngest children begin exploring the world. Our Ducklings join the main school for assembly and other activities during the week. Small groups led by qualified staff make learning fun and our Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum offers a rich adult and child led experience.





Your child...

PRE-PREPARATORY

When children enter Reception and become Hedgehogs, they are eager to explore, test and try, to work and play with friends. At Springmead, we provide the stimulus, they provide the imagination! In our small Reception class every child's needs can be understood and met. Alongside daily literacy and numeracy sessions, French, music, and PE specialists introduce language, movement and song, props and equipment – learning is fun. While there is still plenty of time for play (inside, or outside in their own dedicated outdoor classroom, or one of the main

playgrounds) inspiring and caring teachers create a space for confidence to grow.

Exciting and fulfilling times await Years 1 and 2, our Rabbits and Otters! Building on their excellent start, children move ahead with assurance. As attention spans lengthen, topics are widely explored through the curriculum, enrichment days, visits from experts, trips, IT sessions, books and hands-on learning. Sound maths, English and science skills are developed. Creative sessions – whether art, drama, poetry or story writing – are part of the daily

routine. Teaching is cross-curricular and innovative: alongside carefully planned lessons, our teachers help the children *Seize the Day*.

Your child will develop and grow, stretched and encouraged in their learning and supported when they need to be. In our small classes, your child's input is valued and confidence nurtured. Children are expected to rise to new challenges, good habits are embedded, and firm friendships develop. Our family atmosphere surrounds and shapes them as they learn to share, care, and help one another.

Your child...

PREPARATORY



Increasingly independent, children enter the Preparatory department keen to make progress. In Years 3 to 6 our Badgers, Squirrels, Owls, and Eagles become capable and determined. Expectations are high but tailored to be realistic for each child. Challenge abounds, be it in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage or through the Springmead Award. Class sizes, capped at 17, mean your child's voice can be heard and views appreciated. Children form firm relationships with class teachers

and subject specialists – a key part of the Prep years. Our teachers deliver a creative programme of study which goes far beyond the national curriculum, bringing topics to life in and out of the classroom.

At Springmead it is 'cool' to participate, work hard and be interested in all areas of school life: our boys and girls get involved and succeed because of it. Independent learning skills are encouraged and sound human values grow.

Confidence and self-esteem blossom in our supportive atmosphere. As children work together they build social skills, and expert help is on hand to allow all to achieve their individual potential. With each year, responsibility and self-reliance increase and your child becomes a young person ready for the challenges ahead. With excellent preparation, when it comes to secondary education, Springmead children are ready for the next stage of their learning adventure.

Your child...

MAKING PROGRESS



At Springmead children make superb progress. In our small classes, every lesson can be tailored for all abilities; the more able will be stretched and those needing extra help will get it. Individual needs are further met outside the curriculum through extension clubs in literacy, maths, and music, and one-to-one specialist sessions supporting individual needs. Children are encouraged to develop their own unique skills and abilities through clubs and peripatetic specialist teaching in sport, music, singing, and speech and drama.

Teacher and external assessments are built into the timetable to ensure we always know where all our children are. Parents are kept up-to-date through two Interim Reports, a full School Report and three Parent Consultation Evenings over the year.

We don't just track and assess academic progress: we are interested too in how each child makes the most of all that is offered at school – through the great choice of clubs and activities each term. Our approach is truly holistic and produces well rounded

individuals; good learners who are confident in themselves and want to participate. Through the Building Learning Power programme children are taught to become effective self learners.

Our Year 6 children consistently get into the secondary school of their parents' choice. Heads of Senior Schools consistently comment that Springmead children perform well in entrance tests, at interview, and in giving presentations.

Your child...

DOING SO MUCH MORE



Our enriched curriculum offers each child so much more. Our extensive lunch time and after school clubs list changes every term and covers sport, arts and crafts, the performing arts, and curriculum extension – there really is something for everyone and all are encouraged to take part. From Japanese and Cheerleaders, to Jewellery Making and IT – as well as all the seasonal sports – the choices are inviting and exciting.

We are very proud of the Springmead Award in which all our Prep children participate. Taking its inspiration from the

Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, the Springmead Award offers four levels of increasing challenge across six areas of achievement: service, hobby, physical activity, first aid, a walk and, for Year 4 and above, a residential trip. Children who have proved their personal commitment are presented with their copper, bronze, silver or gold awards on the last day of the year and collect them with pride. The scheme truly develops the whole child and inspires each one to reach their potential beyond the classroom.

Living up to our *Carpe Diem* motto means we sometimes suspend our

normal curriculum and immerse ourselves in focus days. Harmony Day resulted in some fabulous work and delicious shared lunches! In an enrichment week our children are stretched and challenged in new directions as we invite a specialist to work with the whole school. Whether it is a mini musical theatre performance, a sculpture to which we have all contributed, or dance workshops performed by every child in the school, when we all come together to share our work at the end of the week, we see what we can achieve through focus and working together.

Your child...

FIT FOR LIFE



Sport matters at Springmead and we are proud of our sporting achievements. Timetabled sports for boys and girls, and PE from Nursery to Year 6 ensure that your child's experiences are wide ranging. Swimming, rugby, football, netball, hockey, rounders, athletics, gymnastics, dance and cricket all feature during the academic year. A life-long enthusiasm for activity begins here and expert coaching develops ability and sportsmanship. More than this, the encouragement given allows all to improve their skills and find something they really enjoy. The highs and lows of

competitive sport are experienced through regular fixtures and galas – children are all encouraged to represent the school during their time at Springmead. Teamwork and camaraderie develop and children learn to win or lose with good grace.

Sports clubs at lunchtime and after school abound, from tag rugby, cross country and netball, to dance and karate to name just a few. Our cross country athletes have an outstanding record of success at regional team and individual events. Our year round weekly swimming lessons for all children

from Reception to Year 6 have enabled us to build a squad that has competed at regional and national level.

Springmead children are active all the time! Break-times give space and time to run and skip; kicking balls and playing tag are a big part of playtime. Your child will grow stronger and more adept and see the value of endeavour. Every day, they will experience the fun of playing with friends.

At Springmead, the foundations are laid for a really active life.

Your child...

PERFORMING ARTS



At Springmead we have a passion for the performing arts – music, drama, and public speaking – and we watch our children’s self-expression, fluency of speech and movement and confidence grow. With so many chances to perform, the demon stage fright is met head on. Through the performing arts are grown precious life skills – empathy, self-belief, appreciation of others, the joy of being on stage, and the immense pleasure of appreciative listening.

Our youngest children start by taking their turn to speak in front of their peers, and by Year 6 our

Eagles astonish us with their self-directed solo singing, directing and dancing on stage at our annual Showcase. Our polished annual drama productions, regular class performances, school poetry competition, the challenge of the Mid-Somerset Festival and church services offer our children many opportunities to develop confidence by taking centre stage.

Music permeates the syllabus: all have timetabled lessons. Musical productions and Christian festival services develop both fun and spiritual appreciation of music. Our annual Instrumental Concert,

the formal highlight of our music year, is impressive for the sheer numbers participating and the extraordinary standards. We are justly proud of our award winning Prep Choir and our Pre-prep Choir melts the hearts of everyone who hears it.

At weekly singing and instrumental assemblies we experience the joy of sharing music together. A high percentage of our children learn to play instruments. Music matters at Springmead, but above all it is enjoyed.

Your child...

WILL EXPLORE!



At Springmead *Go Explore!* sums up our philosophy. Given the choice, out and about is where children want to be. Through outdoor learning spaces, our own wildlife area, our lovely rural location, frequent trips and visits, our Springmead Award walks, and our specialist taught bushcraft programme – getting out of the classroom is a fundamental part of school life!

Our youngest children learn from direct contact and play-based exploration of the natural world, taking in information through all their senses. One day we might be

mixing paint colours in the playground puddles and another, bird spotting in the woods at our wildlife area. Older children are inspired by a rich programme of outdoor activities such as shelter building, fire making, cooking outdoors, and creating art with natural materials. Our Year 6 children learn how to survive and thrive in the natural environment in their regular woodland bushcraft sessions.

The Springmead year is packed to the brim with exciting trips for every class, from picnics and farm visits for our Nursery and

Reception children, to adventurous activity centre and cultural residential trips to London and France for older children in the Prep Department.

Out and about having fun, enjoying variety, exciting new discoveries, and a fresh take on learning. Through *Go Explore!* Springmead children experience the world beyond the classroom and find new skills and confidence in themselves.

Your child...

OUR COMMUNITY



Sound values and a Christian ethos make Springmead a caring school with a positive, encouraging atmosphere. *Carpe Diem*, our school motto, and *Believe*, our school song really do underpin all we do. Children learn to believe in themselves and grab hold of the opportunities life presents.

Our house system is strong, our School Council effective – all are encouraged to get involved. Older children look out for younger ones. Little ones aspire to do more: there is a super set of role models at Springmead. In our small classes

no one becomes lost. Mutual respect and rapport between staff and pupils is clear. Out and about, our children are frequently congratulated on the standard of their behaviour in public. Snack, lunchtimes, and after-school club teatimes are sociable and civilized; good manners matter from Nursery to Year 6.

Our school cook prepares well balanced and nutritious meals in our own kitchen using fresh local produce wherever possible. Our seasonal fortnightly menu includes a daily salad bar; healthy morning

snacks are offered and a balanced afternoon tea is served to children staying for after school club.

From our weekly ‘coffee with the parents’, to a warm welcome to class helpers, we actively encourage our parents to be involved. Above all, we understand that through good open communication, the parent-teacher-child partnership can achieve remarkable things. We are all proud of our school.

Your child...

CARED FOR



Open 51 weeks a year from 8.00am until 6.00pm, Springmead really does offer wrap-around care both in term-time, and through 16 weeks of Holiday Club.

Central to your child's life, with a real interest in their well-being, is the class teacher. They, with our experienced support staff, become significant and encouraging adults in your child's life at school. Our children feel safe and know that any teacher will listen, advise or simply chat. All our staff see each child for who they are and help them to become all they can be.

From our weekly Praise Certificates assembly to house points and our Class of the Week Cup, success is rewarded. Achievements out of school are also shared and celebrated on our weekly newsletter.

Springmead lives up to its positive behaviour management strategy: putting children in a position to succeed, not fail, and celebrating their successes.

At Springmead, your child will receive outstanding pastoral care of the highest quality.

YOUR NEXT STEP



At Springmead, we understand that choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. We hope this prospectus has brought our unique school to life – and you can find out even more by visiting our website at www.springmead.com.

Once there, why not click on our social media links to find out what we've been up to today?

Better still, do come and visit – there really is no substitute for seeing the children and teachers in action: at Springmead every day is an open day. To arrange your visit, please telephone the Administrator on 01373 831555, or email the school on info@springmead.

We look forward to hearing from you.





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