



WEST BUCKLAND

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Forward | Thinking

A gem of a school in an exceptional location."

Good Schools' Guide



Welcome

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions any parent can make and I firmly believe that the education on offer at West Buckland Prep School gives children the very best start in life.

West Buckland Prep School is a vibrant hive of activity. No two days are the same and we pride ourselves on providing opportunities and experiences that challenge and inspire, whilst creating a passion for life-long learning.

We are so lucky to sit on an idyllic site on the edge of Exmoor. Our pupils have access to nearly 100 acres of green space in which to learn, play and explore. This really is a school where children are allowed to be children; disheveled hair and muddy knees are signs of a day well spent.

Being an integral part of the wider school community at West Buckland means our pupils have access to superb facilities and our Prep staff are all experts in their field. We aim to create happy confident learners who have the skills and character to face the challenges of our modern world.

Most importantly, our school is happy, the sound of children's chatter and laughter fill our corridors. I hope you will come and visit us to see what makes our school such a magical place to learn.

Sarah Atkinson, Headmaster





The Prep School pupils' exceptionally good behaviour and the good relationships they enjoy with staff are key factors in enabling them to achieve high standards."

Independent Schools Inspectorate



Learning together and building foundations

Our emphasis on individual care inspires confidence and builds determination and self-esteem.

Throughout their time in the Preparatory School, we help pupils to embrace new ideas and to think critically and independently.

We encourage and teach the importance of good manners, respect for others and responsibility. Our pupils learn how to work as part of a team and are encouraged to face challenges and to find solutions to problems.

Children between the ages of three and four enjoy a safe, secure and homely environment in the Nursery. As they progress through Reception, Prep 1 and Prep 2, the children have their own team of teachers with fantastic facilities.

Pupils from Prep 3 to 6 engage in a structured and differentiated timetable and take advantage of specialist teachers and resources. Their class tutors have responsibility for the pastoral and academic welfare of the children.

Our Personalised Learning Department provides pupil support where needed and our curriculum provides opportunities to enhance the talents of individual children.

At the end of Prep 6, pupils are fully prepared for the challenges and opportunities offered in the Senior School, so transition is smooth and positive.

Science, DT and IT

It is vital for our children to learn and develop the skills and knowledge they will need for the future.

Our pupils are encouraged to question, to investigate and to make discoveries in all subjects.

In Science, pupils use observation and experimentation to develop knowledge, understanding and key skills. Practical experiments feature regularly and by encouraging pupils to question, the very best ideas are generated.

In a digital world, our use of dedicated ICT suites and mobile technology in the Prep School allows us to introduce important IT skills at an early age so that the pupils feel confident, safe and equipped to thrive in a digital age.

Our 150 Building includes a state-of-the-art Design and Technology department with dedicated areas where children can explore innovative technologies such as 3-D printing and computer-aided design alongside traditional crafts. Pupils experience working with different materials, such as wood, metal, ceramics and textiles.

“Pupils in the Prep School achieve particularly high standards.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate



“Science Day is better than Christmas!”

Hugo, Prep 2



My favourite part of the school day is...

“Play practice because I love drama.”

Isaac, Prep 4

Music education was notable for its quality and the number of participants.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate



Music, Drama and Art

Creativity enriches all our lives and is an integral part of our work in the Prep School.

Our vibrant Prep Music department benefits from having its own Director of Music, which means we offer weekly music lessons and many opportunities for the pupils to join a wide range of musical activities.

Additional visiting music teachers give individual or group lessons throughout the year. Our choirs, bands and orchestras have gained an enviable reputation. Relatives and friends are invited to enjoy a busy schedule of informal performances, recitals and major concerts, at school or other local venues.

Drama is an important part of the curriculum for all our pupils. Throughout the year, each age group will have the opportunity to perform in plays and musicals, giving pupils the confidence to perform in public from an early age.

Speech, drama, poetry and dance are popular extra-curricular activities and are supported by specialist visiting staff.

The outstanding Prep art studio means all pupils are given the opportunity to appreciate and use a full range of media and techniques. This thriving department, with its specialist staff, aims to nurture and develop our pupils' ability.

My favourite activity
at school is...

*“Forest School because
I like to be with nature.”*

Tyler, Prep 6

Sport and the outdoors

Our environment is special and we make the most of it.

Sport is a vital part of school life. Our children have access to first class coaching and facilities: grass pitches and floodlit astroturf; tennis and netball courts; cricket fields and nets, a 25-metre indoor swimming pool and the Jonathan Edwards Sports Centre, providing endless opportunities for children to enjoy PE and games throughout the year.

The main sports are rugby, netball and hockey in the winter, with cricket, tennis and athletics in the summer. Every pupil represents the school in matches against other schools, with many of our teams competing at a high level. Children can also develop their skills further, in the year-round Prep tennis performance programme.

There is a full and busy extra-curricular programme of activities which operates during the break times and after school. Children can choose to participate in activities including sports, surfing, climbing, Forest School, drama, dance, construction, design, street dance, code-breaking and chess.

There are also trips to local and national places of interest as well as outdoor walks and camps. With the stunning Atlantic coast and Exmoor National Park on our doorstep, our pupils are able to explore these areas and develop a love of the outdoors.





My favourite activity
of the day is...
*"I'm not sure because
I love them all because
I can be with my friends."*

Milo, Prep 4

Pastoral care and community spirit

We are, above all else,
a community.

Positive relationships between pupils, staff and parents are vital to West Buckland. The communication between school and home is proactive and parents are encouraged to share in their children's learning and successes in many events and occasions throughout the year.

Our House system promotes a very positive community spirit, a sense of belonging and the idea that being part of a team is very important and that every member has something to contribute.

The four Houses compete against each other in a number of events which, as well as the major sports, includes poetry, music, general knowledge, cross-country, running and art.

Participation is the aim in all these activities ensuring that every child's achievement counts towards their House.

All pupils have school lunches and our excellent caterers provide delicious, well-balanced and nourishing meals, and are well placed to cater for any special dietary needs. Members of staff eat alongside the children and encourage good conversation and manners.

We understand that our families, as well as the pupils, have busy lives and, as such, we offer weekly and full boarding opportunities for our older pupils in one of our boarding houses, run by caring houseparents.



West Buckland Nursery

Positive relationships and a nurturing environment ensure that all children have every opportunity to learn and develop.

At the West Buckland Nursery, we aim to do all we can to ensure that the children have the very best start in life.

Children in the Nursery enjoy a programme of learning, which aims to develop social, physical and communication skills. As well as learning and listening activities, the children get the opportunity to explore art, music, outdoor activities and PE. In addition, they have swimming lessons throughout the year, taught by qualified swimming instructors, in West Buckland School's 25-metre indoor swimming pool.

The Nursery is open during term time, Monday to Friday, from 8:45am to 4:00pm but we operate an early morning club for children who arrive from 8:00am. There is also an option for Nursery children to attend clubs, which run from 4:00pm to 5:00pm Monday to Thursday.

We provide a stimulating, safe environment in which children may develop, enjoy and gain confidence. If you would like to learn more about our Nursery, please visit our website www.westbuckland.com or call **01598 760000** to arrange a visit.

Next steps

We'd love to meet you and to give you the opportunity to meet our Headmaster and to visit our school.

A visit during a normal school day will enable you to see the children and staff at work and to get a real sense of the atmosphere in our school. To arrange a visit, or for any enquiries, please contact Admissions: admissions@westbuckland.com or phone **01598 760178**.

More information is on our website: www.westbuckland.com

Open Days are held throughout the year and we look forward to welcoming you.

My favourite part of the school day is...

"All of it because it is an amazing school."

Henry, Prep 6





One Childhood:
One Chance



WEST BUCKLAND
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Headmaster: Mr Nick Robinson MSc PGCE

West Buckland, Barnstaple, Devon, United Kingdom EX32 0SX

Telephone: +44 (0) 1598 760178 • **Email:** admissions@westbuckland.com

www.westbuckland.com

Registered Charity: 1167545