



SOMPTING ABBOTTS PREPARATORY SCHOOL



An IAPS school for boys and girls from the ages of 2 to 13

“The teachers are inspiring & dedicated and tailor to the needs of each child. Their passion feeds the children’s thirst for knowledge. Stunning grounds, a great atmosphere & and most of all, happy children.”

At Sompting Abbotts our aims are clear. We hope that each child will feel valued and secure. We aim to provide a wellrounded, first-class education for every pupil, in a calm, warm and friendly atmosphere. We promote traditional values within a modern context. Good manners, respect and courtesy are constants.



Our well-qualified teaching staff are dedicated to achieving high academic standards. The academic curriculum is supported by Art, Music and Drama.

Morning Assemblies, continual pastoral care and Religious Studies develop the children’s feelings of self esteem and the satisfaction gained from kindness and altruism.

Within its 30-acre site, with views of the coastline stretching from Beachy Head to the Isle of Wight, the school enjoys a heated outdoor swimming pool, sports fields, gardens, adventure playground and woodland. All provide a safe and healthy environment for scientific enquiry, natural science work, art and recreation.

It is very important that the children in our care are happy, secure and confident, that they achieve their academic potential, enjoy a burgeoning cultural life and fully respect themselves, their peers, adults and their environment.

We extend a warm welcome to you to visit the school.

Stuart Douch

Headmaster of Sompting Abbotts

WELCOME



“My 3 year old son is in the nursery and has a fantastic time at Sompting every day. The teachers are caring and nurturing and create a happy atmosphere for successful development of the children both socially and educationally.”



The Pre-Preparatory is situated in the 'Old Stables'. This lively and welcoming department offers small classes and provides a happy, structured and secure environment for children aged between two and seven.

The classrooms open at 8.30am with registration at 8.50am followed by School Assembly. There are fully supervised breaks in designated areas of the beautiful school grounds, which also provide a rich resource for learning, exploration and play within the curriculum. A cooked lunch is served at noon and the children are collected at 3.15pm. Before and after-school care is provided, including a variety of exciting after school clubs.

The Early Years Foundation Stage in PP1 can commence from the age of two. Parents are invited to choose the number of sessions, with or without lunch, to best suit each child. The six areas of the EYFS are brought alive through play and stimulating activities, together with an introduction to phonics and pre-maths skills. The common goal of our caring and well-qualified Early Years teachers is to ensure that the children receive a warm introduction to school life and move to PP2 (Reception) with ease.

Children whose fifth birthday falls during the Autumn and Spring Terms begin PP2 in September, whilst those who turn five during

the summer months may join PP2 in January if preferred. Although the philosophy of learning through play continues, there is an emphasis on acquiring sound literacy and mathematical skills. Children are heard to read every day throughout the Pre-Prep.

From PP2 onwards children receive specialist teaching in PE and Music. They are introduced to French in PP3 where early emphasis is on oral French.

Parents are always welcome to discuss their child's progress and share in celebrations and class assemblies.

Topics are developed with outings, workshops and visits by artists and writers. The culture, food and flavours of other countries are celebrated annually.

When leaving Pre-Preparatory at the age of seven we aim for the children to have experienced a rich and stimulating early education to enable them to embrace the challenges and excitement of the Preparatory.



PRE-PREPARATORY

“ We hold the view that by taking an active part in sport, whether as a member of a team or individually, children can develop a sense of fair play as well as a controlled competitive spirit. ”





PREPARATORY

In the Preparatory Department, committed specialist staff teach children in mixed ability groups. Classes are small, 15 is the maximum, allowing children to develop particular talents. Good manners and exemplary behaviour are expected and fostered.

English

English lessons provide carefully planned activities to develop spelling, grammar and independent writing, speaking and listening skills and effective oral communication. A broad, balanced scheme of work supports the subject and the cross-curricular themes of the school's general curriculum. The over-riding aim of the English Department is that through stimulating teaching and carefully considered resources, the pupils will write with confidence and originality and enjoy the lasting pleasure to be found in books, reading and research.

Mathematics

Maths is taught to the Common Entrance and Scholarship curricula from Lower Five (Yr.6). Resources including computers, chrome books, SMARTboard, PowerPoint presentations, textbooks, video games and maths-based activities are fully available.

Science

In the Science classes we aim to develop and nurture the children's natural curiosity for the world around. Teaching is through enquiry with investigative laboratory work. Children acquire new information and also a range of practical skills. Extensive use is made of the wooded grounds and pond.

From Lower Five (Yr.6) Physics, Chemistry and Biology are taught as separate subjects and follow the Common Entrance syllabus.



Assessment

We assess pupils' progress by constant monitoring and testing with twice-yearly examinations and reports. These, together with half-term grade sheets and annual Parents' Evenings, all contribute towards a strong, positive partnership between home and school. Children are prepared for the Common Entrance Examination and suitable candidates are selected to take Academic, Art, Music and Sporting Scholarships.

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French

The teaching of French continues in lively and imaginative ways: the study of the country's culture and history is followed while progressively extending the children's knowledge of grammar. Interaction with French departments of other preparatory schools is another important factor within the curriculum.

Humanities

Geography, History, Latin from Lower Five (Yr.6), Religious Studies, PSHE, Music, Art, Design & Technology and Physical Education complete a carefully balanced timetable.

Information & Communication Technology

Our Information and Communication Technology lessons allow students to experience various software and hardware, so providing them with the tools and skills to enhance work and research while maximising the capabilities of computers as a learning tool.



PREPARATORY





“ Inter-House matches are a popular way of encouraging wider participation. Sports Day, held each summer, is a highlight of the year for pupils, parents and staff. ”

“ Our aim is to provide a comprehensive musical education by enabling children to experience a wide variety of musical styles and genres along with regular opportunities for performance. ”



Art and Design

The school places great importance in unlocking every child's artistic and creative capabilities. The Art & Design Department promotes the essential skills of drawing, painting as well as 'hands-on' creativity in ceramics, clay, textiles and printing.

Displays of the Department's work can be seen throughout the school.

Music

The Music Department is a flourishing, vibrant part of the school. In the Main School the three elements of Listening, Performing and Composing are taught integrally. Our aim is to provide a comprehensive musical education through regular opportunities for performing and enabling children to experience a wide variety of musical styles and genres.

Peripatetic instrumental teachers offer individual weekly tuition in a wide variety of string, wind and percussion instruments and pupils are prepared for the Associated Board and Trinity Board Music Examinations.

Speech and Drama

The school's Studio is the scene for weekly Drama lessons. This culminates in a full scale, staged production in the Spring Term. These highly popular performances involve large numbers of children playing their parts as actors, singers and musicians. A visiting Speech & Drama teacher also provides the children with intensive teaching and coaching.

Sports and Games

Active participation in sport, whether as a member of a team or individually, will develop a child's sense of fair play as well as a controlled competitive spirit. By coaching on the field of play and through lessons in the gym, inherent games' skills are brought to the fore and physical fitness developed. The main team games are football, rugby and cricket for the boys; netball, hockey and rounders for the girls. Athletics, swimming and tennis feature during the Summer Term. Cross-country running and squash also attract considerable interest.

There are regular weekly match fixtures with other schools, both at home and away, and parents are warmly invited to attend. Inter-House matches are a popular way of encouraging wider participation. Sports Day, held each summer, is a highlight of the year for pupils, parents and staff.

OUR SUBJECTS



“ Within its 30-acre site, with views of the coastline stretching from Beachy Head to the Isle of Wight, the school enjoys a heated outdoor swimming pool, sports fields, gardens, adventure playground and woodland. ”



Admissions

After the age of five, children are assessed informally during a day's visit to the school.

The School Day

The school day begins at 8.30 a.m. followed by School Assembly. Work commences at 9.00 with five periods in the morning and three in the afternoon. The majority of pupils have sport between 3.30 and 4.30, after which school officially finishes. However, children may remain to take part in supervised preparation between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m.

Extra-Mural Activities

A wide range of extra-mural activities are offered. These vary from term to term and include: art, outdoor pursuits, ICT, 'Green' Group, cookery, model-making, chess, mountain biking, squash, softball, and a French language club.

In addition, as an invaluable aid to citizenship, all the Sixth Form (Yr.8) complete a St. John Ambulance Brigade 'Young Life-saver' Course.

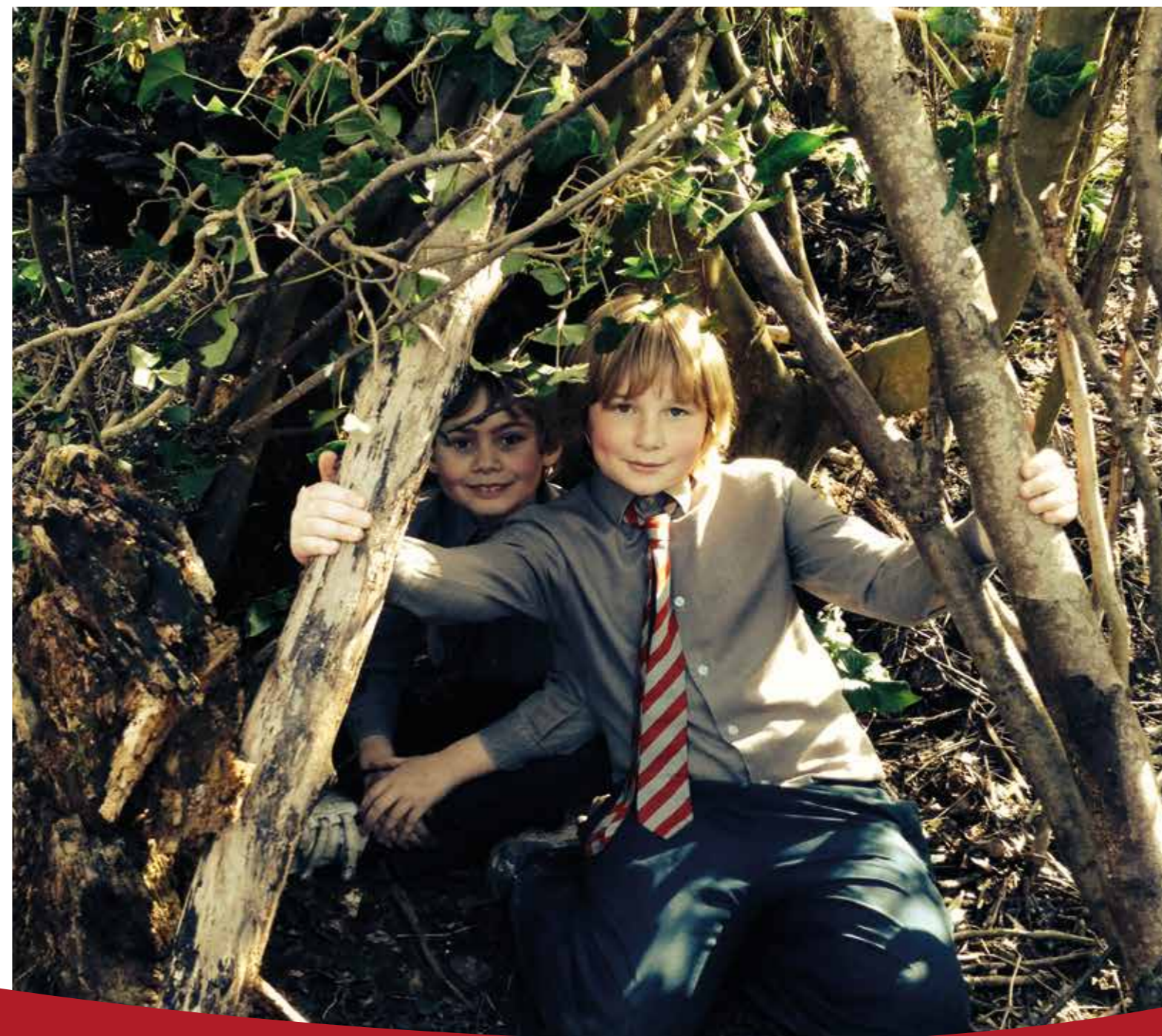
Visits to support academic and cultural study are arranged frequently. They are carefully chosen to enhance study and broaden imagination and horizons.

For older children bi-annual visits are arranged to France (in the Summer Term) and also skiing trips (in the Spring Term). An annual camp is arranged each Summer Term for Lower Five.

The History of Sompting Abbots

The impressive neo-Gothic building, which houses the Main School, was built for the Crofts family in about 1856 to the design of the eminent architect Philip Charles Hardwick. Then known as Sompting House, it replaced an older house that was also owned by the Crofts. The family lived there until circa 1920 when Mr. A.C. Rutherford relocated an established preparatory school, initially based in Brighton and subsequently in Bognor Regis, to Sompting House to become Sompting Abbots Preparatory School.

In 1940 the school was evacuated to Wales but the death of Mr. Rutherford in 1942 resulted in its closure. Happily, due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Sinclair, the school was re-established at Sompting Abbots after the war and continues to this day as a family concern with its members playing a very active role in the running and welfare of the school. It is a member of the IAPS and caters for boys and girls from the age of two to thirteen.





EXTRA INFORMATION



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