



A personalised
BEGINNING *for your child*



COLSTON BASSETT
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

~ INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-11 YEARS ~



Welcome

Colston Bassett Preparatory School represents our vision of a great family school where children are encouraged, stimulated and supported. Their skills and talents are recognised and nurtured.

We are a small independent, family-run, primary school located in the village of Colston Bassett on the Nottinghamshire/Leicestershire border. We are situated in a beautiful rural setting and we take full advantage of our unspoiled surroundings, offering our pupils a unique and distinctive approach to education where traditional family values underpin everything we do.

As a small school we are able to provide individual attention to our children within small classes of no more than ten pupils for academic subjects. We strongly believe this is invaluable to their educational and personal development. Children are encouraged to work at their own pace and ability without being constrained by a 'one size fits all' approach. Each child's particular needs are met and all aspects of development – creative, emotional, moral, spiritual as well as intellectual and physical – are encouraged.

We offer a wealth of teaching experience that enriches the pupils' school day. We hold traditional values dear, and we are unashamedly proud of our finest ambassadors – our children.

Aims

- To provide a primary educational experience where children are happy, secure and focused, enabling them to learn in a well-structured environment
- To provide our parents and children with a quality of service which is unsurpassed in this area
- We guarantee to offer small class sizes to help each individual to fulfil his/her academic, creative and sporting potential – every child is encouraged to develop their individual talents, abilities and personality in preparation for the secondary stage of their education
- To develop each child's moral and spiritual wellbeing, by providing a clear set of values which will enable them to become tolerant, respectful, caring and upstanding citizens, thoughtful and sensitive to the needs of others and caring deeply about the environment and the planet on which we live
- To ensure that the education we provide is rooted in tried and tested educational methods, but which also develops to meet the ever changing needs of people in the 21st Century. We embrace new developments in technology which enables children to work and learn more effectively and provide enjoyment and interest
- To develop an atmosphere at the school where individuality can flourish and yet pupils learn the value of team work and co-operation, for the maximum academic and social development of each child

"I was trying to think of the best way to describe all the good things about Colston Bassett School, when Heather (in the the car on the way home from school the other day) announced "Colston Bassett is the best school ever!"

There are all sorts of details I could add about the things we both like about the school, but I thought her comment was shorter and more to the point."

Helen Colbourne (Parent)

"The children make exceptional progress in their reading, writing and numeracy because of the strong emphasis given to core skills and the high quality individual support each pupil receives."

OFSTED (June 2008)



Ethos

Focus on the Individual

Colston Bassett Preparatory School has a warm, caring atmosphere. It is a small school where each child is well known by the staff. In this way each child's academic progress is carefully monitored, his/her personal achievements are noted and celebrated and his/her personal welfare and happiness are carefully observed and supported.

From the outset, the children are taught to have consideration and respect for others. The importance of maintaining the highest moral standards and behaviour at all times is impressed upon our pupils.

Confidence

The School believes that the sensitive nurturing of an individual's confidence is one of the most important factors in laying the foundations for personal happiness and future success in life.

Confidence can often grow from positive feedback from both peers and teachers within the classroom environment but may also develop in a variety of other ways. For example, confidence gained from non-academic subjects and activities can really help to improve academic performance.

It is very important to find out what each child enjoys most, identify what they are good at, or what they are most interested in, and then encourage and build upon these early signs.

A Balanced School Life

At Colston Bassett Preparatory School we provide a challenging timetable for academically-minded children but we also regard the performing and creative arts as very important and encourage each child to aspire to excel in these areas.

We regard the participation of each child in sport and outdoor activities as fundamental to their personal development. These subjects are character-building and encourage the development of teamwork and risk-taking, whilst also being a fun way to release energy and keep fit and healthy.

"Learn for Life..."

Colston Bassett is an Independent Preparatory School. As evidenced by our school motto, we recognise that we represent only one of several key stepping stones along a child's educational journey through life and therefore a smooth transition to subsequent senior schools is vitally important for us. We treat each child as an individual and we will help to prepare children for entry to other appropriate schools and aim to provide all of our pupils with a superb start to their education.

Values and Discipline

The Ethos of Colston Bassett Preparatory School is based upon Christian principles. The School seeks to provide its pupils with a clear and strong moral framework, part of which is tolerance of the different beliefs and cultures of others. The School therefore welcomes children from all faiths. The main Christian festivals will be celebrated in a traditional manner but important religious festivals of other faiths are also discussed and enjoyed. The School has strong traditional values with high moral standards and the fundamental importance of good behaviour and respect for others is impressed upon all of our pupils. A child can only learn properly in a disciplined and orderly school environment.

Our carefully selected highly experienced teachers and staff work with small teaching groups giving each pupil the best opportunity to develop and excel. The school has a positive, "can-do", atmosphere, enhanced by an excellent three-way working partnership between child, parent and teacher, vital to the success and happiness of every child.

"Our son is enjoying learning, is taking pride in himself and his achievements and is happier than we could ever have hoped for."

Ian Saunders and Amanda Kennett (Parents)

"Our daughter has settled very quickly into Colston Bassett School and we were welcomed into what felt like a new family. This school is fantastic at supporting individual academic needs but it also builds important foundations in social skills too."

Mr and Mrs S Darke (Parents)

"The provision for pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development is outstanding."

OFSTED (June 2008)



Class Sizes

- We are committed to the proven teaching and learning benefits afforded by small class sizes and guarantee to offer this at our school. Small class sizes have been shown to significantly improve the likelihood of each individual successfully fulfilling his/her academic, creative and sporting potential
- Every child is encouraged to develop their individual talents, abilities and personalities in preparation for the secondary stage of their education

Staffing

- The Headteacher, Mrs Julie Hunt, and all other staff have been carefully selected for their experience and specialist knowledge in their individual subjects
- High quality education depends on having the right number of teachers with the right skills and specialisms

Curriculum

- We provide all children with broad and balanced experiences having regard for the National Curriculum and additional subjects such as French
- Music, Art and Technology are taught
- There is a strong emphasis on the participation of all children in a range of sporting and outdoor activities
- The importance of gaining competence with ICT skills is central to our teaching plan
- External professionals are invited into the School to provide expertise and enrich the curriculum (eg. artists, musicians and professional sports people):
 - Professional music tuition is currently available within the school day
 - French is taught weekly to all children by a fully-qualified languages teacher
 - An Art Club and a Chess Club take place once a week after school
 - Professional football coaching by Cosmo Soccer Academy is available after school
- The curriculum is also enhanced by a programme of external educational visits
- A range of teaching and learning styles are used to enable the best matched learning for each individual child

Meals

- A freshly prepared hot meal is provided each day
- The meals are nutritious, varied and meet a well-balanced diet
- A piece of fresh fruit is provided for each pupil at break time
- Milk is provided for Reception children
- All meals are included in the school fees

School Day

As a general rule the children do their Maths, English and French lessons in the morning. The remaining subjects usually take place in the afternoon, followed by assembly.

An example of a typical day is shown below:

8.45am	Arrival / Spelling practice
9.00am	English
10.00am	PE
10.35am	Fruit and Break
11.00am	Maths
12.00pm	Lunch
1.15pm	Reading
1.40pm	ICT
2.30pm	Break
2.45pm	ICT (Continued)
3.30pm	Assembly
3.45pm	Home

We take full advantage of the local environment and have regular rambles and walks. On one of these occasions, the activities for the afternoon may include:

1.15pm	Village walk to St Mary's Church
3.00pm	Creative opportunities and reading
3.30pm	Assembly
3.45pm	Home

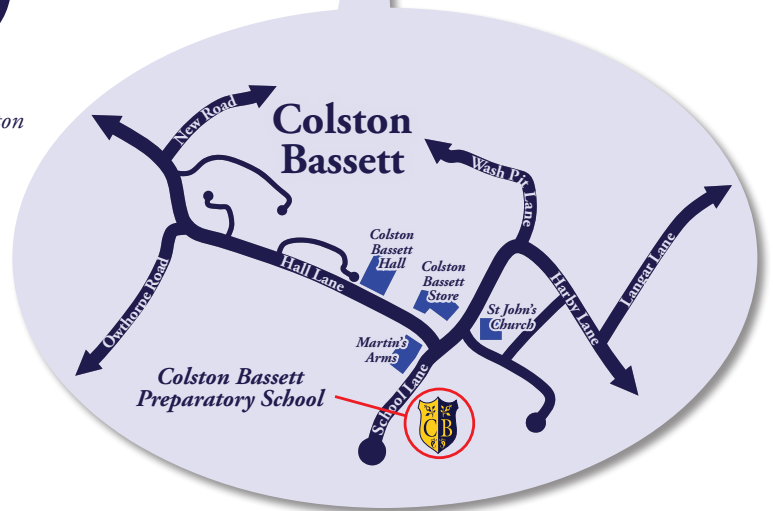




Note:

This map shows the new A46 dual carriageway.

As the road is not fully completed, please be aware that some of the slip roads, junctions and overpasses shown here may not yet be in operation. This map also may not correspond exactly with current maps, online route planners and satellite navigation systems.



"I am absolutely delighted with the progress my daughter has made this term. The pleasure she is gaining from the knowledge she has absorbed far surpasses my hopes for her at Colston Bassett. She has settled into the routine and teaching structure and can't wait to arrive each day. My heartfelt thanks and praise to all the teaching staff. I can only positively praise the school, it's teachers and the pupils – the best decision I've ever made."

Miranda Brydon (Parent)

"We are delighted with the way in which our son has enjoyed school since starting. We have seen a leap in his development both academically and socially. The school is nurturing his love for learning and is clearly providing a tool kit for lifelong development. We love the school."

Matt and Gemma Sheppard (Parents)



COLSTON BASSETT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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