WELCOME TO PRE-PREP
WELCOME

It is our great privilege to welcome your child to The Blue Coat School. From an early age we want to foster a love of LEARNING AND ENQUIRY. We encourage your child's talents to flourish as their personality develops. Our staff provide a valuable link between school and home. We look forward to sharing each precious milestone and achievement with you.

Throughout each day, there are opportunities a-plenty – nurturing language skills and social skills, as well as physical development. We are extremely proud of our OUTSTANDING FACILITIES. Right down to our youngest child in nursery, everyone benefits from these wonderful resources.

At the age of 7 years, our children move up to Prep imbued with confidence, articulate and with a zest for life. This ‘can-do’ attitude is nurtured right from the early beginnings in our Pre-Preparatory Department as we aim to fulfil our vision – LIMITLESS LEARNING FOR TOMORROW’S ACHIEVERS.

Mrs E H Andrews | Head of Pre-Prep
Life at Blue Coat begins in **Buttons Nursery**. We welcome children from the term following their second birthday, in September and January each year. Your child can attend from three mornings a week up to full-time, either as a **Caterpillar** or a **Ladybird** boy or girl! Lunch is served in the Butterfly Room and all children enjoy a cooked meal prepared by our catering staff. If needed, there are low beds for a nap before the afternoon activities begin.

In Buttons, children love being a part of the **Blue Coat Family**. They expend lots of energy in the Pre-Prep gym, they watch the older children perform on stage in the School Hall, and join in with whole school charity activities including their own **Big Toddle** around the field with the Transition children. When the weather gets warmer they venture up to the School Chapel and Forest School. These are perfect for an Easter Egg hunt and Teddy Bears’ picnic!
TRANSITION

In the September following your child’s third birthday they will move up to Transition. There is a part-time option of five mornings a week initially, moving to full-time during the final term in preparation for life in Reception. We welcome new children from other settings and everyone is excited to wear the Blue Coat uniform for the very first time!

Learning is predominantly through Play and Exploration and the children have lots of fun! You will be invited to workshops to understand how we teach Maths and English and spend time in your child’s classroom.

You will enjoy seeing your child take part in their first Christmas Production along with the Reception children. There are opportunities to pursue a broad range of interests via co-curricular clubs. A relaxed homework schedule starts with a daily reading book sent home from Michaelmas Half-Term onwards. Other tasks may include a word book or a weekend cutting activity.
RECEPTION

RECEPTION is the year most parents will associate with the start of school. However, with little exception, our children join us at age 2 years (Buttons Nursery) or age 3 years (Transition). We therefore advise prospective parents to register for entry from age 2 or 3 years instead.

The children build on the **KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS** that they have learnt in Transition. They have weekly assemblies to help instill the Christian values whilst PE lessons in the Pre-Prep Gym and swimming lessons support the children’s **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**. Lunch is eaten in the Dining Hall with the Class Teacher and playtime is on the main Pre-Prep playground which is equipped with an exciting **CLIMBING FRAME**.

Before School Care is available between 8.00 am and 8.30 am and After School Care is available until 5.45 pm for all year groups including Buttons.
YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2

In **Key Stage 1** (ages 5-7 years) our teaching programme is loosely based on the National Curriculum but with much more flexibility and room for **INDEPENDENT THOUGHT** and the exploration of topical issues.

**Enrichment Days** are a perfect way to bring subjects to life. These might include a visit from a Poet or Author; a re-enactment of a historical event or even the chance to get up close and personal with animals from a different habitat!

Several children may now be learning a **MUSICAL INSTRUMENT** taught by one of our Visiting Music Teachers. They will also be taught by subject specialist teachers for PE, games, swimming and music. Using the **Sports Hall and Astro** helps the children to develop their skills and is a highlight of the week for the children.

Whilst in Pre-Prep, the children will have built up their **SELF-CONFIDENCE**; many will have taken roles on the School Council; they will have led Class Assemblies and Chapel Services and taken part in productions, concerts and Sports Days. The move up to Prep is a seamless transition and the children all look forward to the excitement of joining the Houses and accessing further facilities and specialist teaching.
Children's achievements, progress and commitment to the Blue Coat Values are celebrated in weekly assemblies. Sitting at the **Golden Table** for lunch is a much coveted honour!