



Yarrells School & Nursery

Where children love to learn





HEAD'S WELCOME

Yarrells is a gorgeous school, full of happy children who love to learn. Our relationships with the young people we teach are so important. We work really hard to foster happiness, self-confidence and aspiration for life in every individual here.

My absolute passion is to provide an outstanding educational environment for children; one that is warm, nurturing and provides space for a broad curriculum. All the doors of opportunity are open for our young people and the children at Yarrells are able to explore their identities and their talents fully so that they grow both their confidence and their skills to meet life's challenges with relish.

We are incredibly proud of our academic record (91% success rate at 11+ grammar entry in 2020-21) and equally proud of our commitment to non-selective entry to Yarrells at all ages. We work hard to support and challenge our pupils so that their learning is exciting, stimulating and makes their brains ache – in a good way! This gives them a strong sense of achievement, whether they are striving for a grammar school place at 11+, a scholarship award or overcoming a curriculum area of genuine personal difficulty.

We are truly individual in our approach and seeing the commitment and passion within our community every day makes me beam with pride.

I should love you to come and see Yarrells in action for yourself; I am certain you will meet young people who are flourishing and growing their confidence in all the right ways.

Do call us to book an appointment. I look forward to meeting you and hearing about your hopes for your son or daughter as they grow.

Sally Moulton
Head

ABOUT YARRELLS

Yarrells School and Nursery provides excellent opportunities for children to enjoy their learning in an enriching environment both indoors and outdoors. We promote high academic standards, integrating the performing & visual arts and sport within a dynamic and extensive curriculum.

A member of the Independent Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS), we take boys and girls between the ages of 2 and 11. Our school is housed in a Georgian mansion and surrounding classroom buildings encircled by the gardens, fields, courts, pool and woodland of its own estate in the town of Upton, near Poole, Dorset. In these beautiful surroundings, we have the scope to make the most of extensive learning opportunities. We believe in an individualised approach and that in our setting, guided by expert staff, we can nurture each child's gift and help them develop the confidence to meet life's challenges with spirit and determination.



Where children love to learn



High academic standards and success rates for grammar school entry at 11+ (91% 2020-21) and scholarships

SUCCESS NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

At Yarrells, we pride ourselves on developing happy, confident, kind and capable children. We wrap our children in a rich intellectual environment so that they can enjoy the experience of a first-class, structured foundation in education which prepares them beautifully for transition to senior school and for life at large.

Our children earn themselves places at grammar schools and independent senior schools, often with generous scholarships based on their achievement. Our ex-pupils are noted for their happy, confident and outgoing demeanour, the quality of their academic achievements, their determination to work hard and take up a challenge, as well as for their enthusiasm in sporting and artistic pursuits.

Success comes from the love of learning; every child is encouraged and inspired to develop self-confidence, a curious mind, a thirst for knowledge and to grow their skills of critical thinking, collaboration and resilience to name a few. At Yarrells, we combine the very best of the National Curriculum and the Prep School Baccalaureate programmes of study so that our pupils have the highest quality learning opportunities available to them, as well as individual routes of transition depending upon their choice of senior school.

Our curriculum has, at its heart, the development of knowledge values, skills, attitudes and behaviours required for children to flourish and succeed in an ever-changing world.

Our pupils participate in an engaging curriculum that not only builds knowledge base, but also inspires independent thinking and intellectual curiosity; they have opportunities to develop and demonstrate their skills of leadership, collaboration, independence, critical thinking, evaluation and communication. It is the development of these skills that will take them well into their futures, both at senior school and beyond.

SCHOLARSHIPS AT YARRELLS

We offer scholarship opportunities for pupils each academic year, from Year 3 and above. There are three categories of scholarship entry:

- Academic
- Creative and Performing Arts
- Sport

Scholarship applications are received in the January preceding your child's entry to the school and pupils meeting the specified standard will be invited to spend a day with us during which they will have the opportunity to showcase their talents and meet with the Head for a chat about something they love doing.

Scholarship awards constitute either a fee discount of between 10-15% or free 1:1 lessons in the area of talent such as music, drama or tennis, for example.



Success comes from the love of learning

EARLY YEARS AT YARRELLS

At Yarrells, our youngest children start their learning in Greenwood, our eco-friendly Early Years Centre, tucked into a snug and safe corner of our woodland site.

Nursery children benefit from all the wonderful facilities and opportunities at Yarrells:

- secure garden and safe play area
- highly qualified, specialist and dedicated staff
- dynamic and extensive curriculum
- a beautiful estate with the main school housed in a Georgian mansion and modern classroom blocks
- extensive grounds including sports fields, play areas, woods, gardens and outdoor education areas
- covered, heated swimming pool and netball/tennis courts
- hot meals and all snacks prepared by our excellent catering team
- gym and performance hall

Children in the Early Years are at the heart of our school community and benefit from being immersed in our enriching environment. All classes are taught by specialist Early Years practitioners and we use the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) areas of learning as the basis for an over-arching and extensive curriculum. From the tender age of 2 ½, children also enjoy specialist teaching in art, cookery, gymnastics and outdoor sport and on top of all that, our pre-school classes have dance, French and swimming taught by specialist practitioners. Our pupils learn through a wide variety of play and creative activities and are encouraged to develop self-assurance, independence, resilience and collaborative skills. We offer a seamless transition through our Nursery to Reception and beyond in a stimulating environment which builds the foundations of learning within the Early Years Foundation Framework.



Our Nursery children are fully integrated into school life at Yarrells and enjoy whole school as well as class assemblies. The children in Squirrels (Pre-Reception) and Reception classes are assigned a 'buddy' from the senior school. Buddy time is always a cherished occasion whereby the children play, share books and enjoy building supportive relationships with each other.



Nutkins (age 2-3)

In a cosy part of Greenwood the Nutkins enjoy hands-on learning and are fully supported by our exceptional practitioners. They love learning inside and out, enjoying our beautiful school grounds.

The children in Nutkins are immersed in Nursery life and begin to enjoy independent learning alongside the older children. They take part in dance and music as well as outdoor PE and 'Wild Woods' with specialist teachers.

Squirrels (age 3-4)

The foundations for learning are always being developed and enhanced. In our Squirrels class there is additional specialist teaching in French and swimming. The children are continually moving forward in their learning journey and become 'school ready' for a smooth and successful move to Reception.

Reception (age 4-5)

Our children in Reception bounce into school, always sure of a warm welcome and an exciting day ahead!

Building on the foundations laid in Nursery, the children continue to follow the Early Years curriculum, establishing secure skills in literacy and numeracy that will form the basis for their ongoing education. In addition to the extensive curriculum already offered to our youngest pupils, the children in Reception upwards have a weekly tennis lesson with our full time specialist tennis coach.



Give your child a head start at Yarrells!

THE SCHOOL DAY AND CURRICULUM

Children attend full time from:

- 8:30am to 3:30/3:45pm (Pre-Prep)
- 8:30am to 4:00/4:15pm (Junior Prep)
- 8:30am to 4:30pm (Senior Prep)

Extended day:

- Breakfast club from 7:30am
- Early Birds from 8:00am
- Supervised crèche from 3:30pm – 4:15pm
- Tea and after-school activities to 5:45pm

Pre-Prep: building on strong foundations for ages 5 to 7

Our curriculum is exciting in its scope, with concentration on the mastery of basic literacy and numeracy along with enriching opportunities to broaden both individual knowledge and skills. The children are taught in a combination of whole class, small group and individual structures.

Our extensive curriculum includes art, computing, cookery, dance, design technology, drama, French, games, geography, gymnastics, history, literacy, music, numeracy, P.E, PSHE, religious studies, science, Spanish, swimming and tennis. Children's experiences are enriched further by off-site trips and visits throughout the academic year.

Each year, parents receive two comprehensive written reports and are invited to attend regular conferences with their child's teachers.

Junior & Senior Prep: exciting challenges for ages 7 to 11

The curriculum for our Junior and Senior Prep pupils is based around, but goes beyond, the National Curriculum and Prep School Baccalaureate programmes of study. Children enjoy lessons in art, computing, dance, drama, design technology, English, French, geography, history,

mathematics, music, P.E (including swimming and team sport with fixtures against other schools), PSHE, religious studies, science, Spanish and study skills. All the way through, pupils are taught by specialist practitioners for all their subjects.

Individualised programmes of study are created, where appropriate, in order to challenge and support those pursuing scholarships and those overcoming difficulty in a particular area.

Children preparing for entry to local grammar schools continue to receive a beautifully broad curriculum, but we work especially hard during Year 5 in our study skills lessons, Grammar Club and Grammar Holiday School, to build their skills so they are able to meet the challenges of the entrance tests with confidence.

The assessment of pupil progress is robust and comprehensive at Yarrells. Children are assessed informally at all stages, and formally at key points during the academic year in order to inform further planning. In addition, comprehensive, nationally recognised, standardised data is gathered regarding pupils' underlying ability as well as their progress each academic year. Careful tracking of each child's academic journey is made and this provides us with vital information in order to plan next steps for learning.

The Head meets with parents to support, guide and advise them through the many and varied senior school routes for their child(ren).

Work on the transfer to senior schools is undertaken sensitively and the beauty of our school is that, no matter what your child's route of transition, we can and will prepare them for every style of assessment, interview and scholarship award.





Small classes and individual learning



LEADERSHIP AT YARRELLS

At Yarrells, there are so many opportunities for children to lead. It is important to us that pupil leadership is not merely the wearing of a badge or the carrying of a title, but that along with the privilege of leadership comes a clear set of responsibilities that add value to and enhance the lives of those carrying the role as well as those in the school community.

Our children participate actively in the life of the school and our young leaders have a say, whether they are pupil Heads of School, on the Eco-Action Team, the Student Council or are House Leaders, Sports Captains, Music or Drama Captains or Buddy Mentors. We are very proud of the way that the 'pupil voice' is encouraged at Yarrells. Pupils have the opportunity to be involved in all sorts of decision making and recent examples include new uniform, charities & fundraising, community days, eco-action and opportunities to bid to the Friends of Yarrells for various school projects.

We have a School Council whereby representatives from each Junior and Senior Prep class are elected each term from amongst their peers to be involved in this important leadership development opportunity. The School Council discusses various issues with their own classes to take forward to their meetings. This gives children the chance to think about and discuss ideas, concerns and opportunities. The School Council meets regularly and also contributes to specific assemblies when the children on the School Council tell us about their work and what they have achieved.

School Council meetings create opportunities for children's views to be expressed and heard. We encourage effective communication within school and we take account of children's views and ideas.

MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

We pride ourselves on the relationships we build with our pupils. We ensure we really know every child, their strengths and their struggles and we work hard to stretch and support accordingly. Yarrells takes great care to provide the best education for a wide spectrum of pupil needs and our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators and their team of specialist, qualified staff not only tutor individual children but also work with small groups throughout the week. Our specialist team liaises with parents, teachers and, as appropriate, specialist professionals from outside the school to provide pupils with a structured learning programme. All children have individual provision plans created for them and all staff are involved in their learning, to ensure the strategies and action plans are met where relevant. We are proud to report that we have a fine track record of success and can substantiate the value we have added to each child's learning journey.

HEALTH & PASTORAL CARE

Having asked our current parents to describe the atmosphere at Yarrells, the words they have used are 'happy', 'nurturing' and 'caring' to name just a few. Each pupil's personal, social, health and emotional development is carefully supported by a web of committed professionals at the school. Each child's form tutor links closely with the pastoral leadership team, the teaching staff, the co-ordinator for PSHE and the SEN and safeguarding teams, and all consult in depth with the Head to provide a strong and loving support system for the children in our care. Parents are involved throughout and we work hard to support children as they face life's ups and downs, celebrating their good times and supporting them in their more challenging moments.



THE ARTS

The creative and performing arts are an integral part of the curriculum at Yarrells. Our belief is that a creative curriculum develops fundamental skills of self-confidence, collaboration, self-discipline and the joy of self-expression. The children at Yarrells have many opportunities to be involved in performances, from class assemblies and the Nursery Nativity to major dramatic and musical productions for our juniors and seniors. There are music groups galore and our pupils have the confidence to give anything a go, whether it's starting out on the ukulele, break-dancing at the Summer Extravaganza or performing at the local Minster in the school orchestra.

Dance

All children from Nutkins to Year 6 enjoy the benefits that dance can bring and participate in one specialist dance session per week. Dance plays a crucial role in developing a broad range of personal, learning and thinking skills that help the children improve these skills for performance in



school and for life. The lessons encourage the children to be creative, exploring a range of ideas during improvisation as well as working through technical steps in a range of dance genres. Much of the work we do is linked beautifully with other curriculum areas, allowing for deeper learning and interpretation to take place. The children are given the opportunity to perform on stage throughout the year, showcasing their newly found skills in a variety of show performances.

Drama

Creative, improvisational drama classes are part of the curricular week for all children. Drama is fun and encourages self-confidence, the ability to articulate ideas, co-operation and self-discipline. Our creative drama classes help students live and work in a changing world, where flexibility will be a crucial part of life. As the world becomes more digital, it is essential to help students understand the importance of face-to-face contact as well as boost their expressive and communication skills.



Lessons are full of fun and laughter as students improvise their way through many situations including: 'What is that smell?', 'We're lost!' and 'What's in that box?'.

Performances are given each year in our main hall, which is converted into a theatre with full staging, scenery, lighting and sound systems. Our shows are filled with music, dance, fine costumes and lovely sets. Recent performances include 'Alice in Wonderland - the musical', 'Oliver Twist - the musical', 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World!'.

Individual Speech and Drama lessons are also available and children may take exams in both Verse and Prose, and Acting with LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art). These classes are suitable for both budding thespians and for those who would benefit from the opportunity to build their confidence. Exams are not compulsory, but taken when the student feels confident and ready.



Music

All children from Nursery onwards enjoy singing and percussion classes and learn to play the recorder and ukulele Year 3. In Year 4, the children then enter a 'musical carousel' and experience group instrumental lessons on a selection of instruments. From Year 5, the children start using keyboards to help enhance their musical learning.

All children take part in at least two staged performances each year. This is a wonderful opportunity for building their confidence, self-expression and self-esteem.

Music is taught by specialist staff and many pupils also take individual lessons in piano, voice, guitar or an orchestral instrument. Children are prepared for the examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and Trinity Guildhall. Theory lessons and ear-training sessions are also available for the candidates prior to their exams.

Musical appreciation is enhanced by visits to professionally performed concerts, a regular one being the BSO Schools' Concert, and our peripatetic staff regularly perform in assemblies. Children learning instruments are also encouraged to perform in assembly when they feel ready.

Yarrells' music department runs a large number of extra-curricular clubs to which all children are invited:-

- Junior and Senior recorder clubs
- Junior and Senior orchestras
- Junior and Senior choirs and a senior chamber choir
- Yarrells band for aspiring pop artists
- Yazz Jazz for senior pupils
- Hand bells club
- Ukulele club

Scholarships in creative and performing arts are available:- see previous scholarships page.





SPORT FROM THE START

Sport is taught by our enthusiastic and committed specialist staff. Sport is great fun at Yarrells and we are very much a 'Sport for All' school – everyone is involved, from the tentative beginner to the elite athlete.

We believe sport builds and develops so many skills within the individual. Not only are fitness and good general health crucial to promote, but the skills of collaboration, determination, perseverance and resilience are vital to develop and the sporting curriculum gives us the opportunity to do so at Yarrells.

All children, from the Early Years upwards, have ample sports opportunities on a daily basis and enjoy a super range of activities:

- swimming
- gymnastics
- music and movement
- tennis with specialist coaches
- athletics
- field and court games
- active play in the grounds and on climbing apparatus

All sports, including swimming and tennis, are taught as part of the whole school curriculum. There is a structured physical activity every day, as well as free play times on the fields, fitness trails and in the woodland.

Competition

Teams from Year 1 up compete in friendly fixtures with other schools, both at home and away. Much care is taken to ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity to participate in these matches during the term. Parents are invited to all fixtures and to the annual Sports Days and Swimming Galas.

Awards & Encouragement

The children's achievements and progress are regularly celebrated by receiving cups, badges, certificates and medals, as well as by cheerful encouragement from staff and peers alike. Team spirit and sportsmanship are embedded values within the school.

Extra sport

Pupils who are especially keen on sport can opt to participate in a variety of lunch-time and after-school clubs.

Pupils who demonstrate particular talent in one or more sports are selected for advanced sports coaching by Yarrells specialist staff outside class lesson time.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

As well as lunchtime clubs, we offer a wide variety of after school activities, in all sorts of disciplines, to our pupils. Clubs range from football, sailing and tennis to Big Bang Science, junk modelling and ballet.



Tennis Academy

One thing's for sure: everyone's for tennis at Yarrells! Our children bounce into their class tennis lessons each week. Mr Bujak, our fabulous, LTA Level 4 qualified coach works with pupils of all ages, using a Multi SkillZ approach helping to develop gross motor co-ordination as well as game play. We offer smaller development groups or have 1:1 coaching with Mr Bujak on our newly-re-surfaced woodland courts. There are also early morning performance squads where Mr Bujak will put budding tennis stars through their paces to develop their competitive edge and reach for the stars!

All our Tennis coaching sessions are based around an annual syllabus which is designed to meet the needs of the players at each different age and stage of the Yarrells Tennis Academy.

This syllabus takes players from their first experience of Mini Tennis or their transition to a new stage and engages the players in topics relevant to their age and stage. This includes locomotion and movement patterns, body control, tactics and stroke development.





Learning beyond the classroom in our outdoor learning shelter or in the eco-friendly gardens and school woods

HOLIDAY CLUBS

Yarrells Holiday School is well known for its enjoyment and dynamism! We operate our own provision with our own staff for a week after the end of the Christmas and Spring terms and for two weeks after the end of the Summer term each year. We welcome children from within the Yarrells family and children in the local area or siblings of the appropriate age.

GRAMMAR HOLIDAY SCHOOL

In the last week of the summer holidays, we offer those children in Year 6 looking at grammar entry tests the opportunity to work with our specialist staff over 5 mornings. In these sessions, we help get children confident and 'exam ready' so they are in the best possible place for the tests soon after the Autumn term gets underway.

SCHOOL TRIPS

Learning can take place anywhere and everywhere so our children enjoy regular trips in each year group. They will generally attend one per term and we aim to facilitate trips that are both educational and enjoyable. They vary from promoting safety and awareness or enjoying physical challenges to historical visits and theatre trips.

We arrange residential trips such as a night in a Viking Longhouse for Year 3; an overnight camp when children are in Year 4; a trip to Leeson House in Year 5; and a visit to France in Year 6.

Each year, we organise a trip to France or Italy for a week's skiing with our Yarrells families. It's exciting, challenging and enormous fun. It also helps solidify important bonds within the school community.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

We hold school assemblies across the week and these are important occasions to encourage aspects of PSHE and to engage in a relevant topic or theme that enhances the children's educational experience. Assemblies are broadly Christian, in that we have reflections and a hymn each week. The assembly discussion will often be of a moral or ethical nature and from time-to-time children give presentations for school assemblies, which help to develop their confidence and are enjoyable for the participant and audience.

We hold an important assembly for the whole school each Friday, which provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the school community. At times we have a visitor from the locality but frequently it is a class from the school that takes this part of the assembly. We also have individual musical items performed by children and our pupils are encouraged to bring in certificates or talk about awards or recognition that they have received in activities that may not be associated with the school. These assemblies provide an excellent opportunity to acknowledge progress and achievement and each week we award a 'Star of the Week' certificate to one child in each class. This can be for effort, progress or success in any area of involvement at school. Our school assemblies are designed to be happy occasions for the school to meet and for us to appreciate our sense of community. We always light the candles on our school birthday cake and invite those who have enjoyed a birthday in the week to come and get a sticker – including staff!



YARRELLS & THE ENVIRONMENT

Yarrells is proud to fly the 'Green Flag' for the work we do to protect and conserve the environment, both locally, nationally and internationally. We are an 'eco-school', recycling and re-using where possible and always looking to reduce our carbon footprint. We operate car sharing to and from school and encourage the school community to reduce our impact on the environment around us. We regularly take part in beach cleans, recycling drives and the School Council is constantly working to canvas the Head to find ways for the school to operate more sustainably. We often have 'meat-free Mondays', 'refuse to use palm oil' and we regularly raise money for environmental causes.



PARENTS AT YARRELLS

Our parents are a wonderfully social group, always looking to welcome new members into their fold! We encourage a close liaison between the school and parents and we very much operate an 'open arms' policy when it comes to concerns or queries. The Head is always available to talk to parents daily and welcomes the opportunity to meet more formally with those who wish to discuss anything in more depth.

Parents are warmly welcomed at concerts, exhibitions, services in church, special assemblies, sporting events, performances and social functions. The parents' association, Friends of Yarrells School (FOYS), is very active and works with the staff and pupils on numerous social and fundraising activities over the calendar year.



HEALTHY EATING

Children are provided with healthy meals and snacks prepared by our excellent catering team. A choice of a nutritious hot or cold meal is served at lunchtime. Fruit, biscuits and milk or water are served at mid-morning and afternoon break times. For those pupils staying after school to attend clubs or prep, tea of sandwiches and fruit is provided.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

School minibus transport for pupils is available to and from selected locations in Poole, Bournemouth, Dorchester, Swanage and Wareham.

Our experienced drivers are all fully accredited and licenced.



ADMISSIONS

Yarrells welcomes children of all faiths, cultures, races and family backgrounds. We are very happy to admit a child with a disability as long as both parents and the school conclude that Yarrells can provide appropriately for the child's specific needs.

The usual procedure for admissions for all year groups is to book a meeting and tour of the school with the Head. This gives everyone an opportunity to ask relevant questions and gain a sense of whether Yarrells is going to be a good fit. We would then invite your son or daughter to a 'taster' visit for a morning (in Nursery, with parent) or whole day, after which, entry plans will be discussed. Informal assessment of each child's general academic ability will be undertaken in Year 1 and above on the 'taster' day and this is to facilitate discussions about how best to meet individual needs upon joining the school.





WHERE TO FIND US

Yarrells has a uniquely rural feel tucked away in the suburban village of Upton. Our children travel comfortably within a catchment area from Bournemouth to the east, Blandford to the north and Swanage/Dorchester to the west. The centre of Poole is just ten minutes away.

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