



IGNITE THE SPARK THAT SHAPES THE LIFE

Pre-school for girls aged 3 & 4



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Welcome to Little Sparks



I am delighted to introduce you to Little Sparks, our pre-school for girls aged 3 and 4, set in the extensive grounds of Holy Cross Preparatory School, Kingston.

Little Sparks benefits from the best of both worlds; being part of the Holy Cross Preparatory family it shares all of the state of the art facilities of the main school, the excellent leadership vision of Sarah Hair Headteacher, but still enjoys the unique environment of its own purpose renovated building, classrooms and outdoor play area. Curiosity, creativity, communication and confidence are the four cornerstones of early education at Little Sparks. We ensure that everything happens on a child by child basis, with cognitive development derived from every activity.

The girls enjoy the onsite outside space of our eight acres of grounds – our adventure playground, woodland, pond, play village and sports pitches. From getting messy in the mud kitchens to spotting the mini beasts who have checked into our bug hotels, our little sparks are curiosity personified.

Little Sparks captures the imagination of our endlessly inquisitive learners, helping them to take the first small steps towards independence.

**Here we ignite the spark, that shapes the life.
Let us show you what makes Little Sparks so special.**

**Sarah Hair,
Headteacher**





Little Sparks pre-school is situated in The Lodge – a pretty purpose-renovated building within the grounds of Holy Cross Preparatory School.

Our girls benefit directly from the unrivalled grounds of the main school, with all of its facilities and 8 glorious acres of private outside space, adventure playground, woodland, pond, play village and sports pitches.

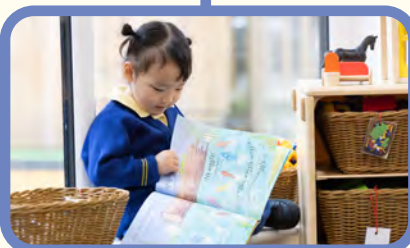
A Holy Cross education starts at age 3 and we focus on building a balanced mindset based on the confidence of self-belief, the joy in each girl's unique skills and an appreciation and celebration of the skills of their peers.

Our specialist team of qualified teachers provide many years of early years teaching experience. Our approach to learning is founded on seeing the world through the eyes of a 3 and 4 year old and our extensive curriculum is play-based underpinned with education. Play is how we learn and, more importantly, how we learn of our own free will so that learning is the joy of curiosity that lasts a lifetime.



Be curious





be imaginative



At Holy Cross we see our life's mission as igniting the spark that will shape the lives of all our girls – the spark that will become a flame that will define the arc of their lives.

We say that a good beginning to the journey of life starts as young as 3-4 years old. We see this in our own Little Sparks every day as we encourage them to develop their own sense of independence and become curious about the exciting world around them.

From day one of their journey with Holy Cross Prep, we are committed to providing your daughter with the best start in life and key to this is our wonderful team of permanent specialist pre-school teachers.





**communicate
and solve problems**



Why choose Little Sparks for your young daughter's first steps in education?

We set ourselves apart by having early years experts and specialist teachers, qualified to nurture children within a 'growth mindset' environment.

Little Sparks gives your daughter the best possible start. She will not be parked in a playroom but will always be on the go and full of beans in a rich and energetic learning setting.

Our spaces in The Lodge are places where the spark of curiosity motivates our girls to explore, wonder and question. We are dedicated to supporting our Little Sparks to discover their own unique talents as they start their journey on a love of learning.



Little Sparks pre-school is the start of a dedicated two-year programme, which is completed in the reception year within the main Holy Cross Prep School, with Little Sparks girls enjoying automatic entry. We follow the early years curriculum framework but have been granted exemption to develop our own outstanding learning bespoke to the needs of our quick young learners.

In their first year at Holy Cross, our 'Little Sparks' make giant leaps in their personal, social and physical development. Our pre-school captures the imagination of these endlessly inquisitive learners, helping them to take the first small steps towards independence.

Little Sparks gives a learning experience tailored to each girl's interests and pastoral needs, as well as to her budding academic path. Our highly experienced teaching team and energy-filled environment provides the right combination of nurture and challenge. Our pre-school girls will gain confidence, perseverance and resilience, as well as a variety of valuable learning skills in a fun environment.

Come and stand quietly in our glorious grounds and just listen. Listen to the girls' laughter; their joy in their young lives. Listen to their happiness.

You will then begin to understand that here we ignite a spark; the spark that shapes the life.



be confident.



Our Curriculum

At Little Sparks we place great value on the impact of high quality teaching in early childhood.

Our highly experienced teaching team and energy-filled environment provides the right combination of nurture and challenge. Our approach and activities are tailor made to meet your daughter's needs, reflect her interests and nurture her development all underpinned by our four key values of curiosity, creativity, communication and confidence.

The Little Sparks curriculum encompasses The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework but we go above and beyond this with a clear vision for the characteristics of effective early years development. We provide exciting early exposure to some specialist subjects including art, drama, music, sport, yoga, ballet, French and Forest School. This broad and dynamic programme is the best possible way of easing your daughter's transition into the main school, where she will complete the final part of the early years journey. With these robust foundations in place, our Little Sparks will be reception ready and they will fly!





Early Years Foundation Stage

As an independent school we have exemption from the Early Years Framework which allows us the freedom to adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of each individual without constraints. However, we continue to implement the seven areas of learning which form the foundation stage curriculum (Development Matters) and your daughter will acquire skills and understanding based on these.

The three prime areas of learning are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-regulation, managing self, building relationships.

We introduce 'The Holy Cross Way' to ensure they feel part of our warm family community.

Physical Development

Gross motor skills (climbing, risk-taking, balance and coordination) and fine motor skills (holding scissors and pencils correctly).

Communication and Language

Listening, attention, understanding and speaking.

The four specific areas of learning are:

Literacy

Reading comprehension (story books), phonics (knowing initial sounds, SATPIN) and writing (early mark making, letter formation and name writing).

We provide a daily phonics programme to enhance phase one and two phonics.

Mathematics

Numbers (1 to 10) and composition of number and numerical patterns (understanding of shape, space and measure).

We provide an additional creative maths programme to allow for challenge and independent thinking.

Understanding the World

Past and present, people and communities, the natural world and using technology.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with materials, being imaginative and expressive.

Our specialist teachers are here to enhance and enrich our learning with classes and activities which are included in our daily routine; ballet, yoga, PE, music, French, library time, drama and Forest School will form part of your daughter's weekly routine.

Day in the Life

Imagine a day filled with learning, laughter, and play. A day where your daughter is surrounded by caring and experienced teachers who are dedicated to provide the best possible start in life.

At Little Sparks we have created a nurturing environment where children feel safe, secure, and supported. We believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life, and we are committed to providing that for your daughter.

What does a typical day at Little Sparks look like?

Morning

Welcome prayer and songs: This is a time for your daughter to begin her routine, learning our morning prayer and engaging in self-chosen play with her peers. A time to develop their independent skills by self-registering and hanging up their things on their peg.

Learning: We introduce a daily learning focus including phonics, maths, fine motor activities, scaffolded play and specialist subjects.

Snack: Keeping your daughter energised with a healthy snack for the day is key. This is an opportunity to practise our manners and be social with our friends and teachers.

Outdoor play: Little Sparks has a large outdoor playground where your daughter can run, climb, play, paint and more.

Lunch: Our chefs prepare fresh, healthy meals for your daughter. Dietary needs and allergies are carefully considered and planned for.



Afternoon

Creative activities: We encourage your daughter to explore her interests and imagination, including a variety of creative activities, such as painting, drawing, and exploring malleable materials.

Learning time: A time to come together for exciting teacher led learning. Skills are taught one-to-one or in small groups.

Specialist teaching time: For example Forest School - your daughter will learn about the great outdoors and being at one with nature.

The end of the day: The girls will give thanks for the day with afternoon prayers and then wind down with a story and a final snack, before collection or wrap around care.



Admissions Information

Your daughter may start the term following her third birthday. Girls that attend Little Sparks will be given priority admission into the reception class at Holy Cross Prep School.

Choosing a school for your daughter is one of the most important decisions you can make, and we understand just how important it is to find the one that best suits your daughter and your family. We very much look forward to supporting you in making this decision. We welcome all faiths and cultures, with priority being given to Catholic families and siblings of current pupils.

Admission to Little Sparks begins with the process of the early completion of a registration form and paying the non-refundable registration fee. Once registered, all children are placed on a waiting list. Following registration, although there is no formal assessment, your daughter will be invited for a short introductory session to ensure Little Sparks is the right learning environment for her.

The pre-school is the start of a dedicated two-year programme, completed in our reception class, which follows the early years curriculum. We have been granted exemption from the early years curriculum to develop our own outstanding learning.

We look for children who are eager, ready to learn and have concentration and language skills appropriate to their age. As well as personal and social skills, we also look for imagination and individuality.

If you have any questions please contact our Registrar Mrs Wilman:

✉ admissions@holycrossprep.com





And the journey continues...



We all agree that life is a journey. Perhaps we do not always realise that the signposts for travelling along this journey of life are clearly visible even in early childhood.

All of our Little Sparks get automatic entry to reception in our main school Holy Cross Preparatory.

Let's take a look at what you can expect in reception



At Holy Cross Preparatory School we know that for every child, there is a key - their own unique key, that will unlock their future.

We identify strengths and talents from the start; encouraging our girls to be curious about the world around them.

Reception girls are taught in two modern, purpose-built classrooms which lead out to their own spacious outdoor learning area, where they can run, explore, plant seeds and spark their imagination. Learning is child-centred with a focus on developing the three characteristics of effective learning: playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically.

Our class teachers and teaching assistants encourage our reception girls to become independent and creative thinkers following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Holy Cross Preparatory girls perform well above the national average academically and many excel in music, sport, drama and dance. Guided by faith and compassion, they carry with them a deep sense of integrity, respect for others, and a commitment to making a positive impact in their communities. Our girls leave us as happy, curious and confident learners who are ready to embrace the exciting challenges of the dynamic world of their future.

