South West March 2017

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An afternoon at the White House School

In November, The White House Prep School was named as one of the top 10 schools in London and 54th in the country by The Sunday Times. So we wanted to find out more...

Q: Is the school's commitment to smaller class sizes making the difference?

A: The School recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, and for Founder and Principal, Mary McCahery, the year saw another highlight after being named one of the top 10 Schools in London by The Sunday Times. "The pupils were thrilled when we told them" says Mary and "felt an enormous sense of pride". "It's all down to the hard work of both pupils and staff" states Headmaster Daniel Cummings "but as important as National recognition can be, this has confirmed what we see throughout the school every day and we are all very proud to be part of such a wonderful school."

Q: But how have you achieved this?

A: The White House know that the pupils' development throughout their time at the School is paramount to their achievements later on. From Kindergarten to Year 6, the School prides itself on choosing to be deliberately small in size with smaller class sizes ensuring that every child can be treated as an individual. This personalised teaching approach ensures an outstanding education (a fact which has been confirmed by both OFSTED and ISI) and allows teachers to find out what really excites and engages the children to help them excel.

This approach to education is at the heart of the School but its dynamic nature means they can also be flexible to 'pupil voice' and emerging interests. Budding Zuckerbergs can now learn the basics of coding in the upgraded IT suite and via the adoption of a cloud-based curriculum, whilst those with a keen interest in engineering can join the Car Club which sees pupils race a self-built car at Goodwood racetrack.

For the Kindergarten, the School has recently adopted an exciting Forest School approach to outdoor learning for 'natural thinking'. Highlights for children include 'Muddy Mondays' and 'Welly Wednesdays'.

Q: Congratulations from Families!

A: Thank you. The Sunday Times recognition is reflected in the offers the pupils receive when they leave the School at 11+. Most go onto JAGS, Dulwich College, Alleyns and Emmanuel or top boarding schools, with over 30% of the children receiving scholarships to their preferred schools.

What's clear is that our school's dedication to the children and their education is helping them to flourish, whilst ensuring the pupils are happy, confident and caring, and still excited and challenged at school.

24 Thornton Avenue, SW12 0LF, 020 8674 9514 www.woodentopsnurseries.com www.whitehouseschool.com

