

THE

# Schoolboy Prince



The future King of England will be eight years old in November. The baby days are past for Prince Charles, and the time has come to extend his formal education, a matter that has come to be an urgent question at Buckingham Palace. Some definite views on the subject are held both by Queen Elizabeth,

who, as sovereign, is officially responsible for the welfare of the heir to the throne, and by Charles' father, Prince Philip.

"Charles ought to go to school and mix with other boys on a completely equal footing," says Philip, who went away to a Surrey boarding school at eight and later to Gordonstoun and the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. Rising early, taking cold baths, doing chores for the older boys, tipping his cap to the masters, standing in line for cocoa and toast—he had the complete discipline of the system. He thinks Prince Charles should be brought up in the same way, with no more privileges or favors than he himself had.

In accordance with his parents' wish, Prince Charles already attends a semi-weekly gymnasium class held by an ex-naval commando in a blue-painted Mews house in Chelsea. He is driven there and back in a royal limousine, with his Scotland Yard detective sitting beside the chauffeur. Here, two afternoons a week, Prince Charles drills and marches to command and exercises with the mechanical horse and climbs the parallel bars.

The Queen agrees it's a fine training for most boys. "But Charles is rather special," as his aunt, Princess Margaret, once remarked. Prince Philip of Greece was never heir apparent to a crown and only needed schooling to become a naval officer. What worries the Queen most is how, if her son is sent off to school to toughen him in the orthodox British way, he can continue to learn the complex art of "being royal," with all the unique duties this entails. There's no school program, for instance, that includes the lessons in constitutional history and law, a future king must study exhaustively before he can rule. The Queen herself had private lessons in these subjects from a tutor at Eton College, amplified by long talks with Ministers of State and members of the government. Sir Winston Churchill, then Prime Minister, even took time out from his wartime responsibilities to explain the national policies to

schoolgirl Princess Elizabeth. Queen Mary had her granddaughter over to weekly afternoons of "court etiquette, tea, and chocolate layer cake," and grounded her thoroughly in the complicated background of the European royal houses and everything else it is expected a queen should assuredly know.

Nor do schools teach military matters in the detailed way Prince Charles must know them. When the Prince rides in an open carriage to watch Trooping the Colour by the Guards on the Queen's birthday, or peeps between the curtains while the daily guard is being changed at Buckingham Palace, his is far more than a boy's natural interest in soldiers. He is learning to identify the different uniforms and flags and the meaning of all the intricate marching and challenging. The Queen herself teaches him this. Prince Philip allows his son to be with him when he is donning some ceremonial uniform for a State occasion—"All us men together," as Prince Charles says importantly, firmly closing the door of his father's dressing room. Already Prince Charles can give a perfect salute. When he listens to a military band, he stiffens to attention and raises his hand to his thick golden-brown hair quickly and smartly. One day as Prince Charles and Princess Anne watched a parade at Windsor Castle, spectators noticed the Prince carefully rehearsing his more lighthearted little sister in the art of saluting. "Do it this way, Anne, and don't keep laughing," were his instructions. Prince Charles has already learned this particular lesson in the curriculum for kingship.



When foreign royalty or similarly distinguished visitors go to Buckingham Palace, etiquette often calls for the heir to meet them as well as the Queen. This also helps to inculcate that smiling poise, the art of always saying "the little things that matter at the right moment," as the Queen herself has described it.

Royalty must never be diffident or self-conscious, no matter who waits to shake hands, and such deportment training has to start as soon as possible. When Prince Charles met the Emperor of Ethiopia, he bowed deeply and remarked, "You come from the land where the lions live, don't you, sir? I've got a book with pictures of lions in it." At least the Queen has no doubt that social small talk will come quite easily to her naturally talkative son.



# OF ENGLAND

BY MARGARET SAVILLE



*There's an urgent question at Buckingham Palace now that the royal heir is ready for formal schooling: how to give lively young Charles a normal boyhood education and still prepare him for the most powerful throne on earth*

Sturdy, fast-growing Prince Charles, with the keen blue eyes and clear penetrating voice characteristic of the Royal House of Windsor, realizes now that he is different from other boys of his age. There are a number of children, sons and daughters of the Queen's own friends, who play at the Palace regularly; Prince Charles has discovered that nobody curtsies to their mothers as everybody does to his. Nor, when his companions go on a holiday, do they travel in a royal train; nor are they received on the depot platform by an official who shows them the engine. Prince Charles will never enter his compartment until "What's the color of our engine? What sort is it? What's its name?" has been properly answered. Once, the royal train narrowly missed its departure time because Prince Charles was busy listening to the answers. Prince Charles has flown in the Queen's private plane too. "I looked out the windows all the time," he reported on landing. "Anne cried a bit, but I didn't. But of course I'm older than she is." The Queen herself flew in a different plane. The sovereign and the heir to the throne must never fly together, in case of accident.

Nor do the other boys whom Prince Charles knows watch their parents on TV or go for voyages in "Mummy's ship," as the handsome royal yacht *Britannia* is called. The long trip through the Mediterranean to meet the Queen and Prince Philip coming home from their long Commonwealth tour was a memorable milestone in the boy's life, his first official introduction to the Navy. He wore a sailor suit, tailored according to regulations, saluted the flag every morning, and was initiated into some of the traditional customs afloat. "My holiday," he called it, yet it was still part of his training for that exalted and unique way of life to which he was dedicated on the day he was born.

Prince Charles did have fun at sea. Every morning his nursery governess, "Mispy" (Miss Katherine Peebles, who has taught him to read and write and

do basic arithmetic) saw that he did his lessons in a little cabin set apart for the purpose, but he also went down into the engine room and made friends with the ship's black-cat mascot, and had some Disney films shown for him in the ship's projection room. "I helped the sailors work too," he says. When deck swabbing was going on, Prince Charles was there with his pants rolled up to his knees, splashing away energetically with a mop. Princess Anne screamed furiously when she wasn't permitted to join in. "This is only for men," her brother



told her loftily. And there was the morning the two children were playing and singing on the sun deck, and Prince Charles noticed the fire hydrant. "I know how to work that," he declared, and a minute later had drenched himself and the Princess from head to foot. After that a stalwart sailor kept his weather eye

upon the young Prince.

Prince Philip is delighted to see that his son shows great love for the sea. During the royal holiday cruise on the *Britannia* last summer, Prince Philip took Charles out for a breath-taking speedboat trip off the Pembrokeshire coast. With Prince Philip at the wheel, the streamlined craft zipped through the blue waters at nearly 40 miles an hour. Blue-shirted little Charles was so excited he shouted aloud with glee and grabbed the control panel, to which he hung on tightly. Then father and son went off to keep a rendezvous with a launch two miles away and spend the afternoon fishing from it.

Prince Charles is now at the age when he admires his father intensely, is deeply interested in everything Prince Philip does, and copies him slavishly. It's the oddest sight to see the small boy walking along a red-carpeted corridor at the Palace (Continued on page 158)



# The Schoolboy Prince of England

(Continued from page 67)



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with his arms behind him, hands clasped, his shoulders a little bowed, exactly as Prince Philip strolls when he's deep in thought. "Papa does it" is sufficient excuse for anything in Prince Charles' eyes. He owns a miniature gun and fishing rod like Papa, plays cricket and football under his instruction, and goes splashing around in the pool with him when he takes his morning swim. His father's crisp "Be a man, Charles" instantly banishes any inclination toward tears or arguments. It's terribly important to Prince Charles these days that his father should approve and praise him.

He works very hard at his riding lessons so that Prince Philip will remark on the improvement. Charles loves horses, but he isn't as good in the saddle as Princess Anne, who, her tutor says frankly, is "one of the best six-year-old riders I've ever seen." The royal children now have regular instruction at a private school in Berkshire.

England's national game, cricket, is the first one Prince Charles is learning to play. His tutor is Prince Philip, himself a first-class bat and a useful bowler. Lessons take place regularly summer weekends on the lawn at Windsor Castle. Charles also watches the cricket programs on TV, while his father explains the finer points of the game. When Bulganin and Khrushchev paid their official call on the Queen at Windsor Castle during their visit to Britain, at teatime one Sunday evening, Prince Charles was in another room watching a famous sports commentator discussing cricket prospects for the coming summer season. He didn't join the Queen's party in the State Drawing Room until the program ended.

CHARLES can read well for his age. His books include *The Wind in the Willows*; A. A. Milne's children's classic, *When We Were Very Young*; and Anna Sewall's *Black Beauty*, which was a prime favorite with the Queen and Princess Margaret when they were children. J. M. Barrie's fairy tale *Peter Pan* is on the library shelf too—Prince Charles knows well the statue of Peter in Kensington Gardens. He also loves tales of horses and cowboys and wild West adventures, and the western films he sees on TV on the children's afternoon programs. But space stories don't seem to appeal to him at all.

The Queen likes to leave much of Prince Charles' training to his father, since her duties claim so much of her time. She knows that the discipline Prince Charles receives isn't always easy to take. As a child she too spent long hours at a desk and had the same rigorous rules enforced. Once, bored, little Princess Elizabeth lifted up the inkpot and poured it over her golden curls, just to make a change. Prince Charles uses a ball-point pen for his lessons, but he has been known to tie knots in the curtain cords and telephone down to the kitchen on the intercom system for "some strawberry ice cream immediately, please."

The Queen is a modern mother who reads books and magazine articles about child psychology, and Prince Charles has plenty of play breaks and parties with his friends. The two understand each

other very well, probably because they are essentially alike. Both are steadfast and quietly sincere, with a bubbling sense of humor hidden under a rather grave exterior. Both have firm characters. "I know how Charles feels about it because I know how I feel myself!" the Queen often remarks. Every morning she is at home, she sees her son for half an hour after breakfast and often walks to join him playing out of doors in the garden during the day. The after-tea hour is still reserved for the children. Then the Queen discusses Charles' lessons with him, listens to him reading aloud, or helps him with a puzzle or card game.

AT SANDRINGHAM Prince Charles is a proper young sportsman in a thick tweed jacket, long corduroy pants, high rubber boots, pointed deerstalker cap. He goes out behind Prince Philip and the other men of the shooting party but soon grows tired of watching them. Then an obliging gamekeeper provides two long feathers from the tail of a cock pheasant, and Prince Charles fights a hilarious duel. Or he returns to his favorite shrubbery for "cowboys and Injuns," which is really what he enjoys most.

In London Prince Charles generally wears a trimly tailored shirt with a little bow tie and flannel shorts in summer, and long woolen pants with a knit sweater in winter, to which he adds a zippered leather jacket when he goes outdoors. He has frilled white silk shirts and long white serge trousers for parties, and is now the proud owner of kilts—they're in the colorful Balmoral tartan, which is that of the Queen and her family.

His shoes are always most carefully chosen and fitted, and his feet receive tremendous care. They're an important part of his royal equipment too. He will spend many hours walking about in public, and always there must be a smile on his face and a pleased expression. Already Prince Charles trains by doing some of his lessons standing up. He rises and puts his feet a trifle apart as he has been carefully shown, so that his weight is evenly distributed. He holds himself erect and never lets his chin drop. He tries to keep his hands quietly folded too, but sometimes forgets when he grows particularly interested in what he's doing. Soon this relaxation will have become a habit, ready for royal days ahead to be spent listening to speeches and watching ceremonial parades.

Usually Prince Charles' closest companion is six-year-old Princess Anne. This vivacious child is extremely independent and brooks little interference from her brother. He knows she must have certain privileges—"Ladies first, I suppose," as he sometimes sighs. At teatime he hands her the cake before he takes his own slice and opens the door for her when she goes off to bed an hour earlier than he does. He looks after her carefully at the weekly dancing class and patiently helps her to learn the polka and the fox trot. But he backs out quickly when Princess Anne commands, "Go away!" in a certain tone, knowing she isn't to be trifled with. Sometime ago a visitor to the Palace said admiringly to the children's nurse, Mrs.



Lightbody, whom they call "Nana," "Oh, isn't Charles b-e-a-u-t-i-f-u-l?" Promptly Charles turned round. "I can spell," he announced. But quick as a flash Princess Anne added, "Not really, you can't. You can only spell Jack yet."

There's no doubt that at times Prince Charles finds it rather a trial to have to cope with his sister. "You must look after Anne," the Queen often says to him when the children are with her at some public event, such as the European Horse Trials in Windsor Great Park last year. Prince Charles spent most of the afternoon showing the sunny-haired Princess how to use his new pair of binoculars. Then she decided she couldn't see the riders properly, so climbed up to the steel top of the car that had brought the royal party. Nobody noticed, so

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Prince Charles followed her. As she was clapping for the winning rider, the little girl overbalanced and fell off. The Queen jumped to her feet and rushed to the rescue. Princess Anne rubbed her nose but refused to weep. As soon as she had assured herself her daughter wasn't hurt, the Queen became a stern parent. Plainly Charles hadn't looked after his sister properly, so back he went into the car with her, and they were driven home in disgrace.

But it was all forgiven and forgotten next morning, and Prince Charles was restored to his mother's usual good graces. "I do try my best," he probably said, while the Queen smiled and shook her head in understanding, as mothers always do. He is the son she loves deeply as well as a king-to-be. Her heart will assuredly help her head as she plans the future education of Prince Charles.

THE END



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