

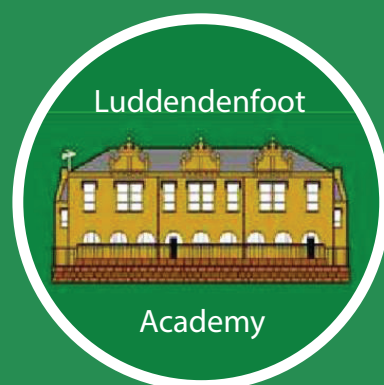


Anna Cooke and Steve Shaw live in Norton Tower, Halifax with their children Layla, nine in Year 5, and Lucas, five in Reception.

**Anna and Steve believe Luddendenfoot Academy works hard to support children to reach their potential both in and out of school**

### **Warm and friendly**

Anna and Steve were impressed with the friendliness of Luddendenfoot Academy when they were choosing a school for their children. "I remember looking and noticing what a warm and friendly atmosphere it had compared to other schools we had seen locally and it felt like somewhere we wanted our children to go."





## Approachable staff

Those initial impressions have proven to be right and Anna feels one of the real strengths of the school is the approachability of staff. "There's never any barriers, you immediately feel welcome and like they are listening and ready to help."

If Layla ever has any concerns at school, teachers are quick to listen and to support her. "I've been very impressed with how proactive they are. They're an incredibly supportive team of staff."

## Encouraging and supportive of individual talents

Layla is a talented dancer and this is one of her passions outside of school. "I've always found school to be very encouraging of Layla's dancing and the potential she has. She sometimes has exams during school hours; the Headteacher and the teaching staff are always happy to support her. She recently auditioned for the Royal Ballet School; we appreciated the support given by school and the fact they allowed her to attend during the school day. The encouragement they offer to Layla is brilliant. The teachers are always interested in how she's done and keen to hear about the shows she's performed in and to see the awards she has won, which is really caring and especially nice for Layla."

## A perfect teaching team

Anna adds: "I can't fault the teachers, they're a very supportive team of people and ensure Layla is always kept up-to-date with her work she has missed for dance exams and auditions. I think they're absolutely brilliant and I know the children feel the teachers are approachable too. They're always visible on the playground each day, which I really like."

## Ensuring each child reaches their potential

According to their delighted parents, both Layla and Lucas are doing very well academically at Luddendenfoot Academy. "Layla is the youngest in her year and initially I had some worries that Layla may struggle amongst her older peers, but that's never been the case and she does consistently well at school. However, I know that if we were to have any concerns about how she was achieving academically, school would listen and would act in her best interests."

## Challenging, but maintaining balance

Lucas started in Reception already able to read and Anna was keen for him to be able to continue with his early progress. "Lucas is quite bright for his age and his preschool teacher suggested I speak to Luddendenfoot about what he was already able to do. They gave me some handwriting sheets and some reading books to try with him at preschool. Since starting Reception I've been really impressed with how they've continued to ensure he is stimulated in terms of his literacy. Lucas now has some lessons with Year 1 which means he continues to be challenged but the time he spends in Reception is really fun. We feel they have the balance right for him and we think it's great how teachers are really supporting his achievements and continuing to ensure he is progressing."

## No hesitation

Anna and Steve add: "We've no hesitation in recommending Luddendenfoot Academy. The school has a fantastic family feel to it and staff have a genuine interest in all of the children, their interests and their individual learning needs. We couldn't have asked for a more supportive and caring school for our children."

Children say:

Layla says: "If there's any problems ever, I always feel I can talk to the teachers, even the Headteacher is easy to talk to!"



Lucas says: "I like going to school because I like learning!"



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