



Jonathan has advanced in leaps and bounds during his first year at Boothroyd Primary Academy

Hannah and John live in Dewsbury with their son, Jonathan, aged five.

Flying start

Hannah and John have enjoyed watching the progress Jonathan has made at Boothroyd Primary Academy during his first year at the school. Hannah says: "Jonathan couldn't read or write when he first started in Reception, but now he can read well and he likes writing."

Enjoying learning

They are delighted with how happy Jonathan is at the school and how enthusiastic he is about learning Maths and Phonics. "The staff are able to encourage him to do good work because they know what sort of things he enjoys and that he particularly likes trains and aeroplanes, so they give him pictures that they know will interest him to write captions for," she says.

Making friends

Boothroyd Primary was not the closest school to where the family lived but they went to look round it and were impressed by the calm atmosphere and the range of facilities offered there. "We could tell the staff all knew what they were doing and that everyone was there to learn and we felt that it would be the right environment for Jonathan," Hannah says. "He was a bit nervous to begin with because he hadn't been to the Nursery at the school but he soon settled in and he has made plenty of friends now."

Good facilities

Hannah and John were pleased that the Nursery and Reception children had their own separate playing areas away from the older children, with a climbing frame and a space for ball games. "The children have plenty of resources at the school, such as a dedicated area for Forest School, an IT room, music rooms and a separate library," she says.

New skills

During his time in Reception, Jonathan has also been able to learn to ride a bicycle. "They brought in bikes for the children to use and taught them all how to ride them, which was very useful," Hannah says.

"Jonathan gets homework on Fridays and is happy to do it over the weekend. There is an incentive to do well because they have a rewards scheme and a class chart for them to record the points they earn. The children get points for good work and they can either choose a prize when they reach a certain number, or save their points and try to add to them, in order to choose a better prize."

Caring teachers

All the staff are approachable and you can tell they really care about the children, Hannah says. "The senior leadership team are always in the playground in the mornings and at home time, and they greet the children by name. They make themselves available to parents who want to speak to them, or to raise any issues with them. The staff go out of their way to listen to what parents think about the school and they give them chance to share their ideas at the regular coffee mornings. They also put on events for parents to explain to them about the way they teach subjects such as Maths and Phonics, so that we can understand how they are teaching the children."

Extra activities

Jonathan has enjoyed being taken on a school trip during his first year, Hannah says. "We are pleased the staff put in a lot of effort to provide extra activities for the children and social events for parents, such as a Christmas Fair and a Summer Fair. Looking back, we are very pleased we made Boothroyd Primary one of our choices when we were applying for schools, because Jonathan has thrived there and it has been fascinating watching him make such good progress throughout his first year."

Children say

Jonathan says: "I like going to school to see all my friends."