

Endija is developing strong leadership skills in the inspiring atmosphere of Broom Valley Community School



Maris and Elina live in Whiston in Rotherham with their daughter, Endija, aged 11, and son, Alex, aged seven.

Public speaking

Maris and Elina are pleased with how confident Endija has become and how well she is doing at school, both academically and socially. Maris says: "We are very proud of Endija and how good she is at English now. When she started at the age of four in Foundation at Broom Valley Community School, she couldn't speak English because we speak Latvian at home. We are amazed at how she enjoys speaking in the pupil parliament now and listening to the opinions of other pupils. Endija announces new things they are going to be doing in school and takes her role in the pupil parliament seriously."

Good interviewer

The family used to live near Broom Valley but have moved some distance away and Endija's younger brother attends another school. "Endija didn't want to move schools and was doing so well we were happy for her to continue at Broom Valley," Maris says. "She now even takes part in job interviews when new staff apply to the school and puts questions to the people applying. She asks them what they think of the school and what they would do in certain situations that could arise. She enjoys having some input into who the school choose to employ and is proud to contribute to selecting the staff who will be working with the children."

Environmental concerns

Endija has now become interested in environmental issues, such as recycling and energy conservation. "She has learnt how to make a compost bin and was very committed when the pupils all wrote a letter to the President of Brazil to raise awareness about rain forests, which they had been learning about in Year 5," Maris says. "She is involved with a lot of the work of the school council, such as having a Healthy Tuck Shop for the children, friendship benches in the playgrounds, and improving recycling and energy consumption at school."

Helping younger children

Maris and Elina are delighted with Endija's reading ability now and are proud she has been chosen as a Reading Ambassador at school. "She works with younger children to encourage them to read for pleasure, which is something she enjoys herself, because she loves reading adventure stories. She helps children improve their reading by going into different classes and taking out a younger child to read with them. Endija has also enjoyed being involved in school drama productions and this has helped build her confidence."

Strong leader

Endija has learnt how to talk to children who have been upset after an incident at school. "She has told us they don't have a bullying problem at Broom Valley because the teachers deal with incidents straight away and she has been chosen as an Anti-bullying Ambassador, and trained to be an advocate for other children. We have been told Endija is a strong leader and shows a good understanding of what is right and fair," Maris says.

Warm welcome

"Endija says she loves all the teachers and is always confident they will help everyone and never leave any problems unsolved. As parents, it is good to know she is being looked after well at school. We have always thought the staff good at communicating with us and have been made to feel very welcome when we have visited the school. We love the way Endija has blossomed while she has been there and has become a high achiever academically and a confident public speaker, and we are glad she supports other children and wants to help her school."

Children say

Endija says: "I love my school and I am pleased we have such good teachers. We are like one big family and all look out for each other."



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