



## Harvey and Lucas are both thriving in the supportive environment of Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

**Ann and Stuart live in Birmingham with their children, Harvey, aged ten, and Lucas, aged six.**

### Enjoying school

Ann and Stuart are delighted with the progress their sons are making in the happy atmosphere of Hawkesley Church Primary Academy. Ann says: "Harvey is now in Year 5 and loves learning. He enjoys going to school each day and doing activities with his friends. Lucas is making good progress in Year 1, thanks to the marvellous support he is receiving from the staff."

### Friendly atmosphere

Stuart and other members of his family had attended Hawkesley Church Primary and so the couple knew it would be a good school for Harvey. "It is close to where we live and it is a small environment where everyone knows everyone," Ann says. "Harvey went to the nursery at the school and enjoyed the play-based learning and making new friends."

### Attentive teachers

After Harvey went into Reception, he loved going to school and missed it during Covid when he had to stay at home, Ann says. "Harvey missed half of Reception as well as part of Year 1 because of the pandemic, but the school worked well with the children and did not let them fall behind with their learning."

### History enthusiast

Harvey now loves history and recently enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Black Country Museum, which he found fascinating. "He loves learning and has been given a good foundation at Hawkesley that will stand him in good stead for secondary school," Ann says.

### Music opportunities

"Attending Hawkesley is a positive thing in his life. It is a one-form entry and so his class stays together and the children go up together each year. Everyone knows each other well. The whole class are learning the cornet this year. They learn a different instrument every year, starting with the recorder in Year 2. Harvey enjoys music and he also has guitar lessons at school," Ann says.

### Excellent support

Lucas was non-verbal in nursery and was given one-to-one support and he has now been diagnosed with autism and has an EHCP in place. "The school have been marvellous and supported Lucas all the way. When he went into Reception he was given a speech and language therapist. He was always given great support by the school even before he had his EHCP," Ann says.

### Good progress

Lucas has come on in leaps and bounds and is now a different child from how he was when he started in nursery, Ann says. "Part of his condition is experiencing social isolation and he struggles to play alongside his peers, but the little girls in his class try to look after him."

### Christian values

Ann and Stuart love the way the staff teach the children about kindness and think the religious background of the school helps to make it a warm, caring environment. "The children are taught to treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves," Ann says.

### Great communication

"The staff are all warm and approachable. They would tell me how Lucas had got on at school when he wasn't able to tell me himself. The ClassDojo is useful because I can send them messages and they can contact me easily. The staff have all gone above and beyond for Lucas, even providing him with a separate menu at lunchtime to suit his requirements," she says.

### Excellent school

"We are grateful our children have had a positive experience at the school. I know of other schools where families have had to fight to get the support their children needed, but we couldn't be happier with Hawkesley Church Primary Academy."