



Ava has progressed in leaps and bounds thanks to the caring staff at Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

Lynsey lives in Kings Norton with her daughters, Ava, aged 9, and Jorgie, aged 6 months.

Enjoying school

Lynsey can't praise the staff at Hawkesley Church Primary enough for all the support they have given to her daughter, Ava. She says: "Ava has made excellent progress since joining the school and is doing well academically now. She absolutely loves everything about Hawkesley and is always keen to go each day."

Catching up

Ava had attended another primary school previously, but Lynsey had not been happy with her academic development there. "When we moved to Kings Norton, I heard a lot of good things about Hawkesley, which is close to where we live, from friends and neighbours. Ava has received excellent support from the staff since she moved to Hawkesley and started in Year One, and they have helped her catch up," Lynsey says.

Pastoral care

"All the staff were very welcoming and Ava settled in at Hawkesley within about a week. She received a lot of emotional support from the staff. She was only young and it was a scary transition for her to have to make, and she was understandably anxious about it to begin with. There was a pastoral worker at the school who developed a good bond with Ava and she could go to her at any time for help. The same pastoral worker was also very supportive to me because I was understandably anxious about Ava," Lynsey says.

Maths and English

"The other teachers were also kind and Ava had one-to-one help with the academic side. They gave her catch-up sessions to help her get up to speed. Ava had missed a lot of education during Covid and I felt she did not receive enough support at her previous school to help her catch up. When she started at Hawkesley, the staff found she needed help with maths, writing and spelling, which they immediately provided," Lynsey says.

Writing success

Now Ava is in Year 5, she has caught up academically. Lynsey thinks that it is a real credit to the school that she is doing so well now, considering her level when she first started. "To me, she is excelling when you look back at where she was. Ava's favourite subject is English and she enjoys writing stories and loves using her imagination to come up with ideas. She has made excellent progress with learning since starting at Hawkesley."

Good friendships

"Ava is now sociable and helpful to everyone and seems mature for her age. She is also on the school council now, which she is very proud of. She makes friends easily because the school have helped build her confidence. She has even made friends with children in other year groups. I love the way the children at Hawkesley all mix well with each other and that everyone at the school knows everyone else," Lynsey says.

Lovely community

"The Headteacher, Miss Poleon, is excellent and provides good leadership and all the other teachers are amazing. They are not just supportive to the children but also to the parents. Hawkesley is a close community and all the other parents are friendly. I just can't praise the school enough because of all the progress Ava has made there."

Children say

Ava says: "Hawkesley Primary is the best school I know, because all the teachers are supportive and caring to everyone. When I feel sad there is always somebody to talk to. When I started at Hawkesley, I struggled a lot with my maths and reading and I used to go to a maths group to catch up. Friends were hard to make at first, but at my school everyone is very helpful and kind. I adore my school and don't want to leave in Year 6."