



Nico comes home smiling every day from Oakview Primary School

Arzu lives in Cheshunt with her husband Kyri and their children, Nico, aged 5, and Alara, aged 1

A smooth start

Arzu says Nico has had a great start at Oakview Primary: "He settled in really well. He was excited to start school and had a great settling-in period. There were no problems whatsoever. Nico is my first child going into school, so it's a big step. As parent, you want them to feel safe and happy, and he comes home every day with a smile on his face. That's all you can ask for."

Engaged with learning

Nico loves learning at school, particularly phonics: "He absolutely loves phonics, especially the new phonics programme they have introduced. It is such a child-friendly programme, and he really enjoys it. They take part in literacy and maths lessons every week which he enjoys," Arzu explains.

Arzu says it has been lovely to see how engaged he is with his learning: "He is always talking about what he has been learning."

Forest school

One of Nico's favourite aspects of school is the opportunity to learn outdoors: "He thrives being outside. All he talks about is forest school, PE, the garden area and especially the mud kitchen – that seems to be his favourite at the moment," Arzu says.

She values the school's approach to outdoor learning: "The children are building outdoor skills over time. As they get older, they will be foraging and but at this stage, it is about exploring the environment, different textures and experiences, which is really lovely to see. It is a great way for them to learn in a different setting," she adds.

School events

Nico also enjoys being able to take part in other school activities: "They took part in a Christmas performance at the local church, which was wonderful. It is so crucial for the children to be involved in a range of performances and activities from such a young age," she says.

Caring staff

Arzu says the staff make her feel reassured as a parent, which is a big part of what makes the school feel so positive: "The teachers are really lovely and friendly, and they really care about the children. You feel like your child is safe with them, and that is so important. It makes such a difference knowing they are being looked after so well."

Family-orientated

Arzu has been particularly impressed by how well the school communicates with families: "The communication is really clear. Everything is explained well in advance, so there are no last-minute surprises. It all feels very well organised," she says.

She also values the effort the school makes to involve parents: "There are lots of opportunities to come into school, like World Book Day, where you can read with your child, or events like the Mother's Day sale. It feels very family-orientated, and it is nice to be part of a school community."

A strong sense of direction

Arzu feels the school has a strong sense of direction and a shared commitment among staff: "There is a really clear vision for the school, and the staff all seem to be on board. Everyone wants the best for the children and for the school," she explains.

She describes the atmosphere as positive: "It is a really harmonious environment. Everyone seems to be working together, and it feels like a really positive place to be. It is already a fantastic school, and it feels like it's only going to keep getting better."

Nico says: "I love phonics and playing outside on the bikes. My favourite part of the day is when my teacher reads to us at story time."