



Jensen, Maddison and Laila have all settled in well at Oakview Primary School

Lauren lives in Goffs Oak with her children, Jensen, aged 10, Maddison, aged 7, Laila, aged 5, and Olivia, aged 3. Jensen joined as an in-year admission, with Maddison and Laila starting later in September

A fresh start and an in-year admission

Lauren says the move to Oakview Primary has been brilliant for her family, particularly for Jensen, who joined as an in-year admission and struggles with anxiety: "We'd moved house, he'd left his friends and had to change schools, so it was a lot all at once. He didn't really like his old school and wouldn't go in. But here, he's probably had just two wobbly days at the start and they dealt with it so well," she explains.

The school worked closely with Lauren to support Jensen's transition: "There were days when he was struggling and didn't want to go in, so instead of going straight into class, they made a plan for him to come in through a side door and ease himself in. It just made it feel less daunting."

Settling in as a family

All three children have settled into school life in their own way: "Maddison just loves all of school full stop. She's excited to go every day and doesn't even like having days off if she's ill because she doesn't want to miss out," says Lauren.

She says Maddison's teacher had a lot to do with this: "Her teacher is brilliant – she's so friendly and easy to talk to, and she just makes you feel really welcome. I think that's made a massive difference."

Laila has adapted to the change well: "She just goes with the flow and settled in really well. Laila doesn't like change, so for her to go from one school to another and start full-time was a big thing, but she's done really well," Lauren explains.

Learning their own way

Lauren says the school understands that each child learns differently and adapts accordingly: "Jensen enjoys the more practical side of school – things like science practicals and PE," she says.

Staff support this by giving him opportunities to engage in ways that suit him: "They give him little jobs that he enjoys, like helping in the library putting stickers on books. It gives him something to look forward to and gets him involved," Lauren explains.

Maddison has also benefited from extra support: "She struggled with phonics at first, so they would put her in a younger group for that. Now you would never think she was struggling with that just two to three months ago. Her reading is amazing, and her handwriting has completely changed since Christmas. She wrote Mother's Day and Valentine's cards – it was lovely," she adds.

Beyond the classroom

The school has lots of things to offer beyond lessons: "They go swimming at another school, visit the local secondary school for things like dance shows, and Jensen's signed up for a residential trip in Year Six which he's really excited about."

Excellent communication

For Lauren, communication is one of the school's biggest strengths: "I couldn't fault them. The communication is amazing. If you've got any questions, they listen and help you in a way that really puts your mind at ease," she says.

She recalls speaking to the headteacher about something she was worried about: "I spoke to the headteacher, and straight away I felt reassured. They don't dismiss things – they listen and help."

A friendly feel

For Lauren, it's the overall feel of the school that makes such a difference: "The teachers are lovely, really easy to talk to, and they just make you feel comfortable. It's a small school, so it feels more personal and you get that connection," she says.

Maddison says: "I love school because I like being with my friends and I have the best teacher."

Laila says: "I like playing with all the toys, especially the dinosaurs and dragons!"