



Shap Church of England School is at the heart of Shap's community and Claire Burgess and her daughter Alice embrace everything school has to offer

Claire's daughter Alice age 6, is in Year 2

Support when help is needed

Claire is Dyslexic and remembers learning to read at school. The support Alice is receiving at school is working wonders for her reading and her confidence. "Alice loves school. We've been working with school closely as Alice is showing Dyslexic traits. Her teacher Miss Jackson and Mrs Kelsall have been brilliant at supporting her. Her reading is improving and we're very happy with the progress she's making," says Claire.

Personal learning journey

"Alice was born four weeks early and she's an August baby so she could technically have been in the year below. To support her, she mixes some of her learning with the younger class and this is working well. It especially helps with her Phonics learning. School have been great at tailoring school to Alice's needs. We have a plan just for her, for her progress, her reading, her spellings and vocabulary and we assess it each term. We call it her 'Supporting Alice Plan' and it's brilliant," says Claire.

Settling in

"Alice is very chatty, she loves her friends and being in class. She likes learning about Geography and singing. She learns through listening and picks things up verbally. She loves it when people come into school to visit. Alice has a best friend and is very settled, she doesn't like it when she can't go into school," says Claire.

A community school

"Shap is a small Cumbrian school, with a hundred students. We're the biggest village in Eden but it feels like a close-knit community. School is well looked after by everyone and is considered a hub for families. All the teachers know each individual child. Shap is 2 miles from the Lake District and 2 miles from the North Yorkshire National Park so we're the 'Stepping Stone to the Lakes'. It's a beautiful place to live. We have people who have always lived in the area and then people move here for the location, everyone gets on with everyone.

We all work together to provide for the community, we all fund raised recently for a new play area," says Claire.

Well resourced

Shap's nearest town is 10 miles away. Shap school is well resourced and children have everything they need to enjoy and be engaged with their learning. "Facilities at school are great. There's a play area and a lovely school hall. There is a little library, it's well equipped. The children have access to everything they need. We are a rural community and school have recently introduced a food bank which is helping everyone. The swimming pool we have in the village is used by school, Alice goes for two weeks at the end of the year," says Claire.

An obvious choice

"Moving into Shap school, Alice was with children she'd been to playgroup with, it was important for us to maintain that sense of community. Shap have a good Ofsted and a great reputation for student's progression. Some of the teachers have been there for a long time which roots school to the community. Local parents are now having their children taught by the teachers that taught them which is lovely," says Claire.

A lovely school

"The children are given everything they need to be able to learn well. There is a strong parent community and new parents are welcomed, everyone supports each other. Friends of Shap School (FoSS) are brilliant at fundraising. There is a school council which is a great way of letting the children voice their opinions and help make decisions. It really is a lovely school," says Claire.

Children say:

Alice says: "I love my friends and singing."

Ofsted says:

Pupils are happy and enjoy each day spent in this small, friendly and nurturing school. They are greeted warmly by staff each morning with a welcoming smile.