



Jason and Sapphire have quickly felt at home in the caring community of St Paul's C of E Primary School

Carla lives in Cambridge with her children, Krystal, aged 15, Jason, aged 10, and Sapphire, aged 5.

Happy place

Carla loves the friendly atmosphere at St Paul's C of E Primary School where children from the different years mix together well and the parents are always keen to help each other. "St Paul's is a lovely school with a real community feel, which I think is rare to come by in a city," she says.

Inclusive environment

Sapphire, who is in Reception, will happily chat to children in Year 6 because she has got to know them from having been given the chance to read with them, Carla says. "Also, each year has its own WhatsApp group, which is brilliant for keeping parents in the loop and giving us a platform to communicate on. Sapphire and Jason have both been made to feel comfortable at St Paul's and made new friends easily."

Firm favourite

Jason has been to seven different schools over the past few years due to the family relocating, and in Carla's opinion St Paul's is the best school he has attended. "Sapphire had attended nursery elsewhere, but joined Reception at the beginning of the school year when she was four and she enjoyed it there straight away. Jason, who is in Year 5, is normally shy and takes his time to get used to a new school, but he settled in quickly at St Paul's and says it is the favourite of all the schools he has been to," Carla says.

Enjoying learning

Sapphire is now learning to read and to work with numbers and she is picking everything up quickly, Carla says. "She enjoys junk modelling – making things out of cardboard boxes – and she loves bringing home the models she has made. She has got a lot of friends from the different year groups because the children all mingle with each other."

Making friends

Carla says Jason has also made some good friends and he gets invited to lots of birthday parties. "He enjoys History lessons and is fascinated with learning about the Mayans at the moment. He also enjoys going swimming with the school."

In the loop

St Paul's are very good at communicating with parents by sending out a regular newsletter to keep us informed, Carla says. She is particularly grateful for the WhatsApp groups for parents. "We can share information and support one another by reminding each other about different things, and sharing any dressing up costumes we may have. People can ask questions on the forum at any time and someone will always answer them. Everyone is very supportive of each other. The groups are brilliant for keeping parents in the loop and giving us a platform to communicate on.

It benefits us with things such as those little reminders for PE days and cake breaks, and gives parents a vehicle for sharing ideas and items of costume for dress up days," she says.

Helpful Headteacher

"I feel we have fitted in at the school very well as a family. Even my eldest daughter, Krystal, who is at secondary school, is going to be doing her work experience at St Paul's, and the Headteacher has been very helpful to her," Carla says.

Sociable pupils

"Sapphire and Jason are very happy at St Paul's and they have both settled in easily. The staff and other parents have all been very welcoming to us and I am pleased that all the children walk home together and meet up for play dates out of school time."

Children say

Jason says: "At the moment my favourite things are swimming and art. We are making a set design."

Sapphire says: "My favourite things at school are probably making things, art, and seeing my friends."

