



Kira's three daughters are at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School and Kira sees how each child is treated as an individual

Kira has Ophelia age 8 in Year 4, Rosalee (Roo) age 7 in Year 2 and Eala age 4 in Reception

Life at school

Kira is a Teaching Assistant in Year 5 at St Thomas More and so gets to see her daughters every day at school. Kira says, "Eala loves school, she's been desperate to go ever since watching 'Matilda'. She's loving life at school. Roo is doing well with the team that are in Year 2. Ophelia loves to read so she's often in the playground with a book in her hand."

Happy atmosphere

"There are always things going on, there's a lovely energy, a buzz to life at school. Just the other day I was walking through the playground, and I could see children enjoying being out in the garden area, they were playing a game of 'making soup', collecting bits of grass and things and mixing it with water. In the hall children were enjoying a dance lesson and out on the field there were children playing rounders. There's always activity happening," says Kira.

Getting out and about

"The children go out to visit local care homes and we go to the Jazz and Literature Festivals. The little ones go to Perry Grove Railway before Christmas to see Santa and there's a trip to the Science Museum in Bristol. There's a great mix of trips and visits that we do," says Kira.

Year 6 celebrations

In Year 6 the children sit their SATS which are nationally set tests for that year group. Kira says, "We celebrate the end of the SATS with the children. They work hard and so we have a pizza party and then they go on their residential trip which is a lovely reward."

Extra activities

"We have a specialist music teacher that comes into school and regular swimming sessions.

There has been a Cheerleading Coach come in and these extra activities change over time. There are always clubs and activities for the children to try. There's a Comic Club and Lego Club which are run by staff and some clubs are ran by external coaches. Everything is intended to be accessible and manageable for everyone" says Kira.

Support for children

Kira and her daughter Roo have been supported by school and the SEND team. "Roo is visually impaired and has Autism. Her diagnosis is recent and I understand how parents can feel when going through the process of a diagnosis. From what I've read online and heard, it can be a very slow journey and parents can often feel that people aren't listening. At St Thomas More that is not the case. Teachers and the whole school team are always ready to listen and will act quickly when a child needs extra support. At St Thomas More children are seen as a whole person, their life at home is just as important as their life in school and school is here to support them at every step," says Kira.

Developing skills

"Roo didn't enjoy PE lessons and it is important that she develops her physical skills. Rather than PE, she has sessions where she focusses on life skills. She will practice, for example, chopping fruit and being safe in the kitchen. School is always looking for ways to adapt and enrich Roo's school experience. I often see her with her TP out on the school field enjoying the space and fresh air as they know that's important to her. School would be impossible for Roo if it wasn't for the dedication of the team at St Thomas More," says Kira.

Children say:

Ophelia says: "I love reading."

Roo says: "I like being outside."

Eala says: "School is fun."