



Arthur and Beatrix are making rapid progress thanks to the attentive staff at Stedham Primary School

Hannah and Michael live in Stedham with their twins, Arthur, and Beatrix, aged six.

Keen readers

Hannah and Michael are very pleased with the pace at which their children are learning in the cosy surrounding of Stedham Primary School. Hannah says: "Arthur and Beatrix have told me they are doing much more reading and writing this year now they are in Year 1. My daughter is keen to read words she sees when we are out that she has never encountered before in her books, and my son is also doing very well academically."

Small classes

Hannah thinks the twins are reaping the benefits of receiving plenty of attention because they are in a small class where there is a teacher and a teaching assistant for 13 children. She says: "Stedham have a teacher to pupil ratio that is better than some private schools. Reception and Year 1 children are taught together and so the twins have the same teacher as last year. The continuity has been good for them, as children can sometimes struggle with the move from Reception to Year 1. They are still with the same brilliant teacher and it hasn't seemed a big jump."

Fun school

Although Hannah's husband, and other members of his family, had attended Stedham, the couple did consider other schools when Arthur and Beatrix were due to start their education. "Stedham is literally at the end of our driveway, but I did go to look at a larger school before we made up our minds, and I found it impersonal and dull." When they went to look round Stedham, they felt the school had the right feeling and would suit the twins. "The classrooms were bright and colourful and the children were having fun and chatting to each other. Arthur and Beatrix went for a taster morning and when they came back, they talked enthusiastically about the school," Hannah says.

Supportive staff

The twins started in Reception just before their fifth birthdays and settled in well. "Although, they are both very articulate, Arthur is now being helped to correct a slight stammer and Beatrix with the way she pronounces certain words. We

are pleased this has been picked up early. They both have separate one-to-one chats with a member of staff once a week. They are made to feel it is just two people talking about nice things, but it is helping their speech," Hannah says.

Good values

"We think the overall atmosphere in the school is very supportive and like the way Stedham pupils are encouraged to stick together and look out for each other. There is no bullying at the school, however competitiveness is encouraged, and the children are taught to be good winners and good losers," she says.

Parent involvement

"Stedham has an enthusiastic community of parents with many mums and dads happy to play their part in helping the school. Recently, parents were asked to help with overhauling the school library and plenty of people came forward. The PTA have regular quiz nights and other events to raise money for the school, which are good fun and always well attended," Hannah says.

Caring community

"Stedham is a small village and the residents like to be involved with the school which is very helpful and makes a big difference. The school have the use of the woodland next to the school for forest school, and they can use the Memorial Hall for Armistice Day and the church for the harvest festival and nativity play."

Children say

Beatrix says: "My favourite thing about school is going into the woods where there are lots of toys to play with."

Arthur says: "I like the lunch breaks, when you can either bring in a lunch box or have a hot dinner."