



# Heidi, Merry and Henry are all thriving in the beautiful village setting of Stedham Primary School

Danielle and Richard live in Midhurst with their children, Heidi, aged 10, Merry, aged five, and Henry, aged four.

## Valued pupils

Danielle and Richard like the way staff at Stedham Primary make all the children feel valued and confident. Danielle says: "The teachers encourage children to embrace their individuality and so they are comfortable about going into any environment."

## Individual attention

Now Heidi is in Year 5 at Stedham, Danielle is not worried about her leaving a small school to move up to a bigger secondary school. Danielle says: "I have seen several Year 6 cohorts from Stedham make the transition, and they have all seemed very well-adjusted and self-assured young people. I think it is likely that the time and individual attention they get from teachers and teaching assistants contributes to this."

## Great start

When Danielle and Richard moved to Midhurst three years ago, they were living near a primary school, but the school did not have space for Heidi and so they had to look elsewhere. "Fortunately, we were able to send her to Stedham Primary, which is only a few minutes' drive away, and Heidi joined Year 2 part of the way through the year. I had been concerned about Heidi changing schools, but she was comfortable there from the first day."

## Making friends

Danielle says the staff were welcoming and it felt like one big family. "Heidi felt at home and it was great for me to know she was happy there. She made some lovely friends because the children at Stedham all get on well together and she enjoyed the lessons. She also liked the extra things they do, such as the fun run and the annual cricket match, which she played in this year."

## Varied activities

Heidi has attended dance festivals with her classmates, taking part alongside other local schools, and enjoyed trips to the theatre and London Zoo. Danielle says. "She is now doing well in Year 5. She loves English and Art and joins in with everything. I like the way the teachers give up their time to put on after school clubs for the children."

## Mixing well

Merry also loved Stedham from the moment she started, Danielle says. "She made some lovely friends and plays with children of all different ages. Although she is in Year 1, she comes home talking about having played with children in Year 6, because the older children always have time for the younger ones."

## Inspiring teaching

Merry is doing well with reading and Maths and enjoys taking part in the Harvest Festival and nativity play. She is very enthusiastic about what she has been doing and will come home and gets her pens and art material out because she has been given ideas at school and wants to carry on at home," Danielle says.

## Lovely surroundings

"Henry has just started in Reception and is also very comfortable at Stedham. He enjoys active play and unstructured time, where he is free to explore the classroom and outdoor space. I have helped at school on occasion, and enjoyed seeing him doing a role play where he was a restaurant manager taking orders from customers on the phone. The early years children have an amazing outside space to play in, which helps to keep them engaged. I love dropping my children off every morning at Stedham because of its lovely setting, surrounded by woodland."

## Children say

Heidi says: "I love that we do Forest School at Stedham. We build fires and have hot chocolate in the woods. It's great!"

Merry says: "I love going to school because there are so many things to do there, with all my friends. Art and craft club is my favourite!"

Henry says: "My favourite things to do at Stedham are playing with all the dinosaurs and running around in the playground."