



Scarlet has grown in confidence and is now thriving in the supportive surroundings of Stedham Primary School

Angela lives in the next village to Stedham with her daughter, Scarlet, aged 10.

Mixing well

Angela is thrilled with the way Scarlet has made lots of friends and become more confident at Stedham Primary. Angela says: "Scarlet struggled to make friends at her previous school because her medical needs often caused her to be absent and when she returned to school the other children would have made new friends. But she has learnt to mix well now and is much happier at Stedham."

Impressive school

After Angela moved to live in the area, she looked for a good school for Scarlet. "I was considering another school, but when I visited Stedham, I was very impressed with it. I had been driving through the village and seen the school, so I stopped and took down the number and made an appointment to visit. I was looking round it about an hour later and talking to the teachers and I immediately realised it was much better and felt more comfortable than the other school."

Helpful teachers

Scarlett has had complex medical needs because she was very premature. "The staff at Stedham were completely understanding about this and have gone above and beyond for her. She has got better as she has got older, thankfully, but to begin with she often had to have time off school. They would always do everything they possibly could to help her when she returned to school," Angela says.

Settling in

"I had timed our move to the area so Scarlet's education wasn't disrupted and she started in Year 1 at the beginning of the academic year. To build Scarlet's confidence, the staff encouraged her to join in with small groups of children in the playground. They gently helped her to play with the other pupils and now Scarlet mixes well with everyone," she says.

Enjoying reading

"Scarlet has some good friends at Stedham now and she is doing well academically in Year 5," Angela says. "This year, Years 4 and 5 are in one classroom and the children work at tables together. They form a bond and the older ones help the younger ones. Scarlet loves English and enjoys reading, writing and literature. She has been chosen as a school librarian, along with a boy from her class who is also good at English, as the staff give them jobs based on their strengths."

Caring community

At Stedham everybody knows everybody and each class has a WhatsApp group for parents. "Everyone helps each other by picking up other children if someone has difficulties. It is a very supportive community and the teachers are part of it. If I couldn't take Scarlet to school, I know another parent or teacher would come and pick her up so she didn't have to miss school. The staff are less remote than at other schools. The teachers come to Quiz night and take part in the annual cricket match, where the teams are made up of pupils, parents, and teachers," Angela says.

Celebrating diversity

"The school has a diverse community considering it is in a small village. At the harvest festival the children showed us how different countries celebrate at harvest time and they didn't just get the information from a book, but from the other pupils and their parents. I would tell any parents considering Stedham to make an appointment to visit the school to see how good it is. Even parents from outside the catchment area are willing to travel to bring their children to Stedham because it is such a good school."

Children say

Scarlet says: "I absolutely love my teacher. She makes everything fun to learn (except homework) and I also love that we can play with the little kids at break time."