

Stuart and Judy Robertson live in Bassingham with their sons, Oliver, aged 12, and Daniel, aged eight.



Oliver and Daniel both enjoyed the adventurous trips and outdoor activities at Bassingham Primary School

Flying start

Oliver and Daniel have both been given a good start at Bassingham, where they have been encouraged to become independent and go outside their comfort zone. Their Mum, Judy, says: "Oliver is now doing well at secondary school and Daniel is being well prepared to follow him. The tuition has been good at Bassingham and neither of them have had any major problems."

Caring teachers

Oliver attended pre school and was prepared for starting at primary school because he was able to go on taster days at Bassingham. "Because we lived in the village we always said we would send our sons to the local village school, there was no reason to send them anywhere else," Judy says. "Oliver started in the reception class at the age of four and settled in well, benefiting from good teaching from the caring staff."



Growing up

Oliver particularly enjoyed going on residential trips when he was older and has some happy memories of adventure holidays with the school, Judy says. "The children are given extra responsibilities when they get to Year Six. Oliver was assembly monitor and he was also part of the group of boys responsible for putting up the stage for plays and concerts. He enjoyed the lunchtime and after school clubs in cookery, chess, film, gardening and netball while he was at the school."

Vote winner

"Oliver was encouraged to put himself forward to become house captain in his final year. He had to make a speech about why the children should vote for him. He had never made a speech before and I remember him writing it and practicing it at home. The staff really encouraged him and it was a success. He is now doing really well at secondary school because of the good grounding he was given at Bassingham," Judy says.



Learning outdoors

Daniel also went to pre school and settled in well when he moved up to the reception class at the age of four. Judy says: "He particularly enjoyed Forest School and all the activities they do in the area of woodland behind the school. He was always very outdoorsy and liked taking in his wellies and waterproof because he enjoyed activities outside. They used to go out into the woods in all weathers throughout the winter and cook and light fires. It was a popular way of learning and Daniel enjoyed making things with twigs and leaves."

Independent learning

Now he is older, Daniel enjoys Science and learning the piano at school. "The children are also encouraged to work at home, accessing activities on the computer from reading and Maths websites," Judy says. "All the staff are very friendly and helpful and are dedicated to helping the children succeed. They are always welcoming to parents and willing to listen to anyone who has issues to raise."

Warm atmosphere

"I have always helped at Bassingham and go into the school to listen to the children read. I also go on trips, go swimming with classes and help out on science or healthy eating days. My husband is a governor and goes into the reception class to give a talk on the harvest and explain to the children how wheat becomes a loaf of bread. I would suggest parents considering the school should go in and experience its friendly atmosphere for themselves. It is a happy, safe environment where children are encouraged to achieve."

Children say

Oliver says: "I enjoyed doing the sound and lighting for plays when I was at Bassingham."

Daniel says: "I enjoy doing Maths and Art at school."



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