

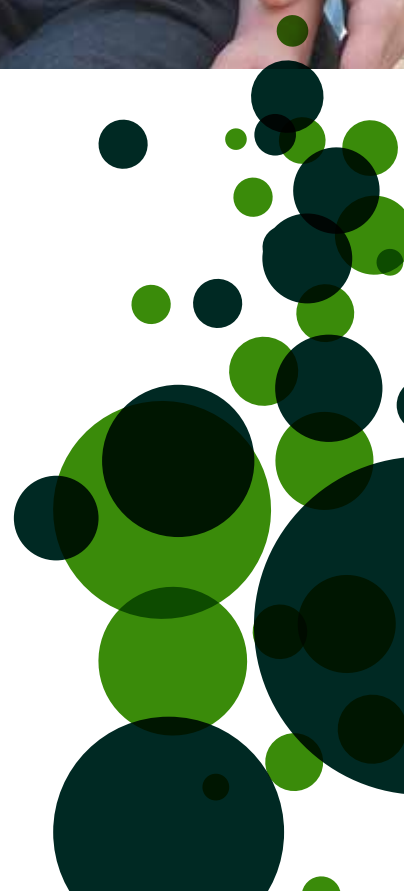
Andrew and Cheryl Wilding live in Bassingham with their son, Micah, aged seven, and daughter Lydia, aged five.



Micah and Lydia are both thriving within the warm community at Bassingham Primary School

Enjoying lessons

Micah and Lydia both love going to school. Their Mum, Cheryl, says: "When I take them into the playground in the morning they don't look back because they can't wait to get inside and start their day. They are both learning well at Bassingham and are interested in the world and how it works. Both Micah and Lydia have health issues that have needed support from the school but we are very satisfied with the way the school have risen to the challenge. The staff have all been fantastic so we know they will be safe at school, which has made us confident about sending them in each day. The communication is great between the staff and they all know how to care for them, even the supply teachers."



Pupil recommendation

The family moved to Bassingham the year before Micah started. "Our house is near the school and we had heard it was good so we went to look round. It was nice to get an insight from the Year Six pupil who showed us round. We felt the school was the right size with 200 pupils and individual classes for each year. Micah has a serious heart condition and cerebral palsy so we made the school aware of his needs. He had to have major heart surgery during his first year and missed a lot of school. They invited me in to talk to his class about it and I was able to explain it was going to be a big operation and he was going to be off for the whole term so that all the children understood," Cheryl says.

Good support

"The school later arranged a fund raiser for a heart charity and the whole community got behind it. Everyone was invited so it was a chance for other parents to talk to me about Micah. When he came back from the op everyone helped take care of him and they were all careful in the playground with him," Cheryl says.

"The local authority have now assessed Micah for the help he needs and he has 1-1 care at school. We had to jump through hoops but the school helped us. Now he is in Year Two he loves school and all his classmates take care of him. He has loads of fun in the playground, is making progress educationally, growing in confidence and becoming more independent."

Excellent progress

"Lydia has cystic fibrosis but it was easy to get her settled because we had a good relationship with the school by the time she started. She has needed medical support at school but is doing great educationally. During the school day she has to have things to keep her well, such as a tablet she has to take when she eats. At the moment she is having a two week course of antibiotics but the teaching assistant in her class always keeps an eye on her," Cheryl says.

Exciting activities

"The school have laid on extra physio for Lydia and work hard to make sure she doesn't miss out on anything. She enjoys Forest School in the little wood behind the school where they make hedgehog huts and bug hotels and build camp fires. She likes PE as she is quite an active little girl. She has made lots of friends and is always very happy about going to school. Bassingham is like one big family where everyone looks after each other. I go into the school to read to the children once a week and I always see happy kids there."

Children say

Micah says: "I like golden time when you get to choose."

Lydia says: "I like Forest School the best."



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