

Kelly and Keith needed quality and practicality, and they found both at Brookhurst Primary School



All questions answered

For full-time working parents, the choice of school for their children can sometimes be harder than for some other families as there are so many factors to take into account. Does it achieve good academic results? Do the children enjoy their experience? Will they be learning and making friends alongside other local children? Is it in a convenient location? And does it have the flexibility to accommodate the early and late hours that many parents have to work? Kelly and Keith found the answer to all those questions at Brookhurst Primary.



Kelly and Keith Merritt live in Leamington Spa with their sons Samuel, nearly five and Joseph, three.

"We actually moved to the area when Samuel was a baby, partly because of the schools," says Kelly. "Obviously we wanted a recommended primary but we needed practicality, too, and in Brookhurst we have found exactly what we were hoping for. Our first impressions were of convenience, because it was within walking distance, and we loved the huge open space for the children to use, and the fact that it was so close to home meant that the boys would be able to make friends locally. As we were also happy with the academic performance results, all these factors were sufficient to convince us that Brookhurst was a great choice."

Taking away the stress

There was one other significant factor in Kelly and Keith's choice, however, and that was the provision of the Breakfast, After-School Club and Holiday Clubs. "As we both have to leave for work before the school day starts, and frequently get home after it ends, being able to use the wrap-around facilities is priceless," Kelly says. "The After School staff collect the children so it's completely seamless as far as we are concerned, and it certainly takes the stress out of the day both Samuel and myself."

Reassurance

As Samuel had attended a Nursery School elsewhere he didn't have the advantage of moving into the Foundation Level with an established group of friends, and Kelly admits that he struggled to begin with. "It was quite difficult for him at first, but his teachers were aware of this and they were very good about keeping us in touch with how he was doing, reassuring us that this was something they were used to addressing. Thankfully it wasn't long before Samuel found his feet and began to relax and enjoy himself."

Trust

As far as academic progress is concerned, Kelly currently has no concerns. "At a Meet The Team session shortly after Samuel started full-time, the teachers explained their strategies and that they assessed each child's capabilities in order to support them appropriately."



The message was 'Trust us,' and now we can see how well those methods work, we are more than willing to do just that."

A world of opportunities

As far as the out-of-hours facilities are concerned, Kelly believes that Samuel is benefitting in several ways. With activities and games which he had not experienced before to take advantage of, as well as the social interaction with both his peers and the older children, she feels that his whole experience of school is a very positive one. "He loves the chance to do something different and really enjoys the company of the other children. Even in the Foundation Year he has had loads of new experiences and once he joins Year One there will be a wealth of opportunities for him to explore, so we are more than happy - and more importantly, so is he."

Children say

Samuel may be only five years old but he knows exactly where his priorities lie:

"My favourite thing about Brookhurst is playing with my friends, and the teachers are nice."

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