



Copthorne
Primary School
No limits on learning

Usman and Samiah like the way achievements and positive behaviour are rewarded at Copthorne Primary School

Usman and Samiah Ahmed live in Bradford with their children Hashmath, aged eight, Simrah, aged five, and Unays, aged four months.



Recognising ability

Hashmath is now in Year Three at Copthorne and is doing very well. His father Usman is pleased with the encouragement he has been shown by the staff so far. He says: "His teacher says Hashmath asks a lot of questions and has adjusted the work she gives him because he shows so much ability. I am glad that he has received so much support from the teachers."



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Ofsted report

The family live about five minutes walk from the school but chose Copthorne not for its convenience but on the basis of the 2007 Ofsted report which described the school as 'outstanding.' Usman says: "The current head is doing a fantastic job at Copthorne. She took over about two years ago and the transition has been great. The school has kept its identity and its high standards."

Good work

Usman likes the way the school encourages positive behaviour and good work by rewarding the children. He says: "I am really pleased I chose the school because they like to make a fuss of the children who do well. They hold achievement assemblies and give out certificates and rewards and I don't think you see much of that in other schools. I believe it is good to reward positive behaviour and encourage children to work hard and attend school regularly. It is best to focus on the positive rather than the negative and instil in the children that positive work will be rewarded. Last year two children at Copthorne got special prizes for having 100 per cent attendance right from the Reception class to Year Six."

Friendly staff

Usman says staff at the school are very welcoming. "They hold regular parents' meetings and encourage you to pop into school to have a word. The teachers are at the door and you can speak to them when you drop off your children," he says. "I go into the school regularly as a volunteer to help the younger children with their reading before I go to work in the mornings. The staff are all really friendly and when I am in there helping with reading I watch them having a little chat with the children when they arrive. It is good to see that the staff are approachable."

Writing talent

Hashmath enjoys both Maths and creative writing. Usman says: "He likes working on the Mathletics website and has been 'Mathlete of the month'. Also, his teachers have sent pieces of his writing to be included in books. Hashmath has had a poem about 'Happiness' published in the Yorkshire edition of Young Writers."

Varied sports

Hashmath is also keen on sport and is a member of a local tennis club. Usman says: "He does a lot of sport at school and I am impressed with the variety the children are taught there. They even get to do Archery when they are in Year Five and Year Six, which encourages them to be disciplined. I would not hesitate to recommend Copthorne to other parents. Hashmath enjoys going to school, enjoys playing with the other children and has made a lot of friends."

Learning at home

"My daughter Simrah, who is five, is in the Reception class and is also showing ability. When I spoke to her teachers they said she is doing well with her work," Usman says. "The school provide lots of things to do at home to help with her reading and writing. Simrah likes reading and learning new words. We are now looking forward to our little boy, Unays, attending Copthorne."

Children say:

Hashmath says: "I like my teachers and have made a lot of friends. I look forward to going to school each morning."

