



From Brazil to Crossways, Bea and her family are loving their new school life.



**The Crossways
Schools**

Marcilena and Eduardo Lobao moved their daughter Beatriz (Bea) to Crossways having moved to the UK from Brazil. Marcilena and Eduardo are pleased at how quickly Bea has settled school and the efforts the Crossways' community has made to make the whole family feel welcome.

Finding their feet

After a short initial start at a school further away from their new home, Bea started at Crossways in Year 2. "In January 2023, Bea moved to Crossways, she started at a different school initially, but we were finding the commute too much as we had yet to get a car. We now walk to school and it's a lovely way to meet other parents and children. It's what we like most about living in a small village like this," says Marcilena.

A big move

It was a big and difficult move for the whole family, but Crossways made school feel like a welcoming place. "One thing we like about Crossways, since the beginning, is how welcome we were made to feel. Thornbury doesn't have the biggest international community, but school made us feel very welcome. School made efforts every day at the start to share individual follow-ups with us so that we knew how Bea was doing. This helped very much. They used texts in English and Portuguese and teachers used translation techniques to make it easy for us to understand how Bea was getting on," says Eduardo.

Made to feel welcome

Teachers and classmates at Crossways made special efforts to welcome Bea and to help her settle in. "Bea was given a buddy when she first joined school which helped. Some of her classmates prepared a letter for her which encouraged her and made her feel welcome. They prepared "welcome gifts" which helped her feel embraced by her new environment," says Marcilena.

Embraced by the school community

As Bea started to settle in to school life, so did Marcilena and Eduardo with the help of other parents and the PTA. "Parents and the PTA helped us to get familiar with school events, parents invited us to things and school sent emails and newsletters. Marcilena has joined the PTA. We feel the PTA is very important and initially helped us feel part of the school community," says Marcilena.

Enjoying school

Bea has progressed well; she has made friends and is enjoying finding the subjects and activities she loves. "At first we would be shown Bea's progress, even when progress was only small it made us feel confident that she was learning and catching up with her classmates. Bea enjoys the Enrichment Activities. She does these on a Friday, and she loves them. Bea loves to draw and she enjoyed Sketching Club. She also enjoys mathematics and geography. She is not satisfied with her writing, but her teacher says she's doing well. She enjoys PE, especially cricket and enjoys the dance lessons, she likes music and art. She likes the school library and regularly borrows books," says Eduardo.

Sharing the same values

As the Lobao family settle into their new life, Crossways is providing confidence and assurance that Bea is growing in a community that shares their same values. "We feel that she is feeling happy going to school, she wakes up energised. It's great and we are very proud of her achievements.

We took the decision to move to a different county and she has faced challenges and we are proud of how well she is doing. We see how school does things, like the Star Assemblies, and that makes us feel more confident and have peace of mind that we are sharing the same values," says Eduardo.

Children say

Bea says: "I like showing my class the map of Brazil."



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