



**Freddie and Alfie love school,
the family believe it is a lovely
place and the Crossways'
community is brilliant.**



**The Crossways
Schools**

Sam Baker-Green has two boys at Crossways, Freddie in Year 3 and Alfie in Year 5. The boys joined the school from reception and Freddie has moved up from Infants to Juniors seamlessly.

Reading is no longer a chore

Developing a love for reading does not always come naturally for some children but with guidance and encouragement children can soon become enthusiastic readers. "Freddie had no interest in reading and school picked this up. He now goes out three to four times a week with a HLTA and this year he has done more academic work than ever before. He's now asking to read and it's no longer a battle. He has an animal encyclopaedia and every night he's decided he's going to choose a couple of animals and read the facts about them. Last year I couldn't get him to read at home, now he loves it, he absolutely loves it."

Support in times of need

When Sam's family was involved in a scary road traffic accident, school was there every step of the way to help life return to normal. "The boys had a terrible road traffic accident a couple of years ago; my husband and Alfie were hospitalised. Freddie struggled with his confidence and his concentration and school was just lovely and incredible with their support. I knew I could send the boys back to school knowing everyone truly cared for them. That's the thing for me, I know that they care for my boys, as I want them to be cared for."

Extended family

Sam remembers going to a single-entry form primary school and has been pleasantly surprised at the benefits of being part of a larger school family. "Crossways is dual form entry which I was reluctant for at first but now I think it's fantastic. It helps with building social dynamics and twice throughout their Crossways journey they mix the classes up, which I think is great because it means you get to make new friends. There's also interaction with other local schools through sports, so the opportunities to make friends outside of school are vast and means the transition to secondary school is less daunting," reflects Sam.

Fun activities

There are tonnes of activities for children to participate in at Crossways. "Today both my boys have been at school activities, one's been at Rounders, and one's been at Federation Farmers, which is gardening club. The grounds are huge and have all kinds of play equipment including a MUGA. OPAL Playscheme has just been introduced; it's brilliant. At lunch times the infant and junior schools now have access to huge wooden sheds each filled with tents, unused PPE from the local health centre, huge wooden bobbin wheels, swimming foam pipes, all kinds of things. They make dens and get creative. It's gone down a storm. Kids love it," enthuses Sam.

Home from home

The recent changes at Crossways have made school feel even more like home and everyone is feeling excited. "There's lots of positive change happening and it's exciting and everyone is embracing this new atmosphere. The teachers are keen and present and the school itself is looking updated and fresh. It's homely and I feel very comfortable and happy that I can send my kids there and I genuinely don't have to worry," says Sam.

Community

Sam praises the PTA for their dedication and commitment to enhancing life at school for the children, parents and staff. "The PTA is hugely involved, they organise all sorts of things like pumpkin growing, discos and they do "Break The Rules Day". They put so much on and raise an incredible amount of money for the school. They're brilliant and work hard."

Children say

Freddie says: "I love learning about maps."

Alfie says: "I love the new school meals."



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