



Drapers' Maylands
Primary School



Carla and James Colasanti live in Harold Wood in Havering with their daughter, Sophie, aged five.

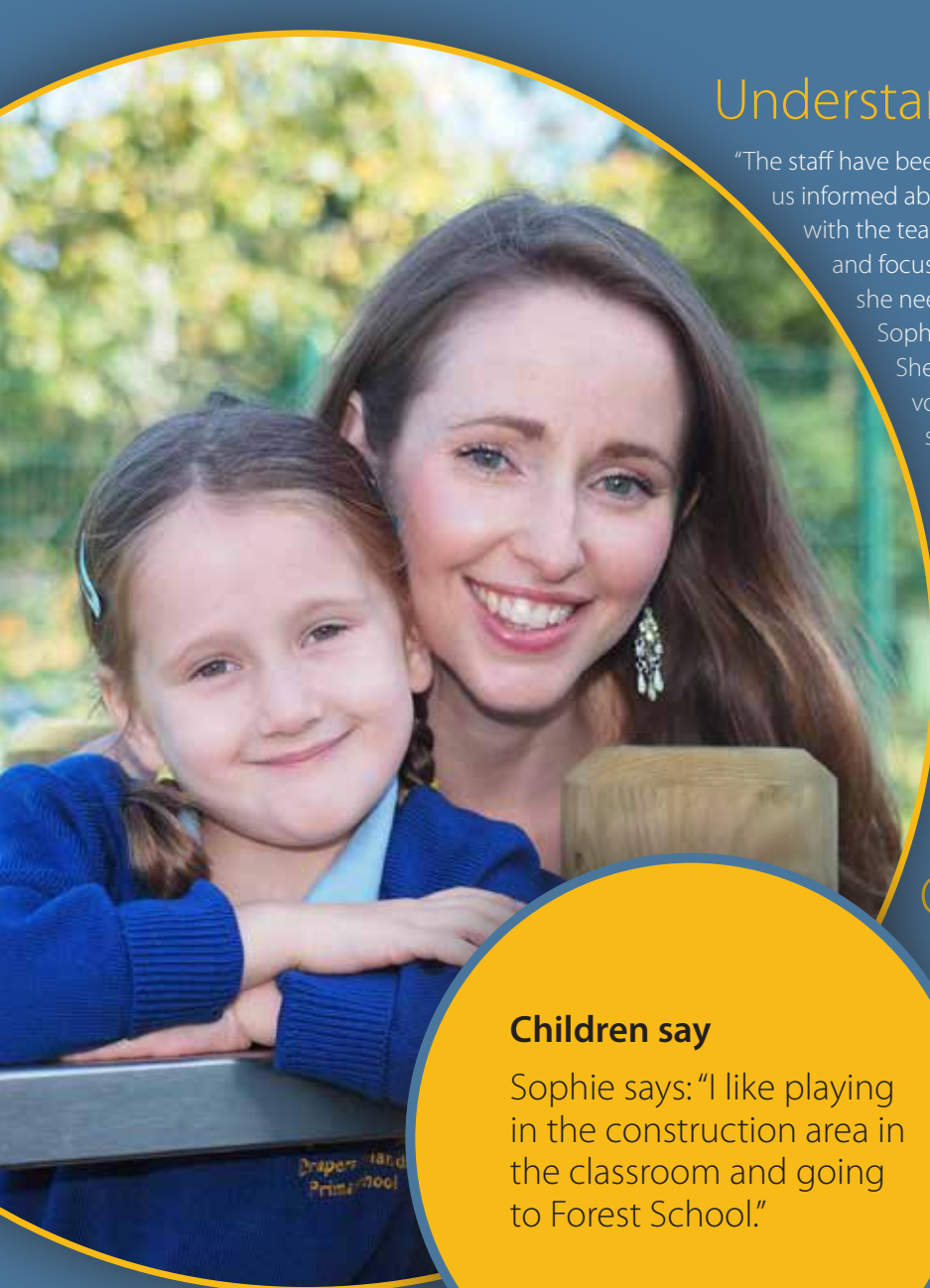
Sophie has made a **bright start** in the **friendly atmosphere** of Drapers' Maylands Primary School

Fun learning

Sophie loves to learn and finds going to school fun, her Mum, Carla, says. "She has settled in the reception class at Drapers' Maylands amazingly well and is making good progress. Her speech and language are coming on and she has grown more confident. The school have opened up many wonderful opportunities for her."

Good support

Carla said Sophie's pre school had flagged up that she found it difficult to sit still and focus. "But when I met the head teacher at Drapers' Maylands, I felt confident Sophie was going to be well looked after and supported there. I loved the passion with which the Principal talked about the new school and was impressed when I looked round it. Sophie is in the first intake and it is all going very well."



Understanding teachers

"The staff have been excellent at communicating with us and keeping us informed about her progress. We have had very positive meetings with the teachers and the TAs. They see Sophie as an individual and focus on what she likes doing, and on the areas in which she needs more support," Carla says. "We are delighted Sophie has become more confident about speaking. She's using new words all the time and extending her vocabulary. When governors visit the school, we're told she approaches them and chats to them confidently."

Mutual respect

"I like that staff treat the children with respect and take their concerns seriously. The atmosphere of respect has had a positive effect on the children and they are all rooting for one another. At a recent event to celebrate the children's artwork one of them received a star of the day award. All the other children were really pleased and congratulated the winner. There is a real sense of camaraderie," Carla says.

Caring staff

"It's a very warm, friendly atmosphere in the school and I always feel able to speak to the staff about any questions I have. Sophie loves being part of the school. When wearing her school uniform, she often points to the school's emblem on it and gets very excited when she sees the secondary school children because their uniform has the same emblem. It is lovely to see that Sophie is proud to be part of the school," Carla says.

Children say

Sophie says: "I like playing in the construction area in the classroom and going to Forest School."

Making progress

"She has made amazing progress since starting at school. She couldn't write letters at all when she first started but her handwriting is fantastic now. At the start of the reception year, parents were asked to write down one aspiration for their child. We said that we would like Sophie to be able to write her name by the end of the year. She can now write her first name and surname and has very neat handwriting," Carla says. "I also think it is great that the school keep us up to date with what she will be learning and invite us to attend workshops about it so we can provide the right support at home."

Reading and Maths

"Sophie has taken the daily Read Write Inc sessions on board and when she sees a letter she immediately recognises its sound. She couldn't read when she started school but now she really enjoys it and tries to read most words that she comes across. She has enjoyed doing Little Big Maths and is applying what she is learning to everyday life. She will point out shapes I've not even noticed when we are out together."



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