



Drapers' Maylands  
Primary School



Kerry and Chris Cooper live in Harold Hill with their three children, Charlie-George, aged ten, Kacie-Leigh, aged five, and Isabelle-Mai, aged three.

Kacie-Leigh is **blossoming** in the **relaxed atmosphere** of Drapers' Maylands Primary School

### Good opportunity

Kerry and Chris are thrilled Kacie-Leigh has been given the chance to be part of the first intake of children at Drapers' Maylands. "It is such a wonderful learning environment and Kacie-Leigh is very happy there. I am only sorry that my eldest child, Charlie-George, hasn't been able to have the experience as well. He has to attend a different primary school because this is the first year of Drapers' Maylands and they only have two reception classes," Kerry says.

### Inspiring staff

"When Kacie-Leigh was due to start school we'd just moved into the area and didn't know much about the local schools. I read that there was going to be a new school starting and when I went to look round I fell in love with it. I was inspired by the staff and the hopes they had for the children. They spoke with real passion about what they wanted the children to achieve and have lived up to what they said."

## Fast progress

Kacie-Leigh made a good start and has enjoyed every single day.

"She has never shed tears and said she didn't want to go to school. She loves reading and enjoys her phonics lessons.

Before she started school she could write her name and recognise a few words but she is now reading well and bringing books home. She is making fantastic progress. She has amazed me by how much she knows about different shapes, such as squares and rectangles. During half term she sat and wrote four pages about shapes. Kacie-Leigh likes doing everything and is open to new experiences. She didn't like getting messy before she started school but now she doesn't mind. She has come out of herself and developed confidence," Kerry says.

## Outdoor learning

"I enjoy going in to help with Forest School. I don't go with Kacie-Leigh's group but I accompany other groups of children. I am fascinated to see the way the children put in their own boundaries and make their own rules. It helps them become aware of potential dangers and they learn from it. They make their own decisions with guidance and develop their own ideas. We take books with us so they can compare the things they find out in the forest with the illustrations in the books. It is a brilliant way to learn."

## Friendly environment

"I love the welcoming atmosphere when you go into the school. You are greeted by the Principal and receptionist and every member of staff will say hello to you. The whole approach is relaxed. The resources at the school are fantastic and they take the children on sponsored outings so everyone can afford to go.

Kacie-Leigh loved the theatre trip. She thought it was amazing. If we go past the theatre she still remembers going to see Aladdin and who she sat next to. I love the way the school involves parents. When they had the steel-drum band for Caribbean Day, it wasn't just for kids, we all got to sit down and watch too. Even my little one was able to watch. Afterwards we gave our input and said how much we enjoyed it," Kerry says.

## Varied activities

"Kacie-Leigh has enjoyed attending the different workshops the school have put on for dance and music. I like the way that we are shown photos if the workshop ends before it is time for us to pick up the children. She also loves doing sport, drama and Spanish after school and the clubs are good value so everyone can do them."

### Children say

Kacie-Leigh says: "I love learning about the different shapes and what are the same and what aren't the same."



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