

Welcoming, friendly, progressive and dedicated: Lyndsey couldn't ask for more from the teaching staff at Ellison Primary School

Lyndsey and Paul Goodstadt live in Wolstanton with their children, Libby, seven, in Year 2 and Maddie, five, in Reception.



Innovative vision

As teachers, choosing the right school for their children was a decision Lyndsey and Paul took very seriously. When visiting local schools in the area, they were particularly impressed with the vision of Ellison Primary School's Headteacher and the welcoming, friendly atmosphere. "The school has a lovely open-door feel and the Headteacher's vision of trying to ensure all the children make good progress in a way which means they enjoy learning was very appealing to us," says Lyndsey.

Safe and secure

Both parents have been extremely pleased with how well Libby and Maddie have settled in to school life. "The main concern for us is that our children are happy at school, and both Libby and Maddie are very content there," says Lyndsey. She believes this has a lot to do with how safe and secure the school makes the children feel. "They do lots of talks on things like stranger danger and fire safety, but also on ensuring the children are aware of their surroundings," says Lyndsey. "We feel confident that they are safe in the school environment."

Impressed with staff knowledge

According to their delighted parents, Libby and Maddie are achieving well. "We've been very impressed with their progress academically. The staff are very aware of individual children's needs and how to meet them," says Lyndsey. "They always know the next steps for each child and the targets needed for each child to reach their potential."

"Libby is really strong in literacy and often her work is extended in class and through homework. She knows her teachers are very proud of her and that she's doing well," explains Lyndsey. "Maddie struggled a little with the transition from nursery to Reception but staff have really supported her and kept us informed of her progress, and now she is thriving."

Positive reinforcement

Lyndsey has noticed the way the children's school work is always displayed on the wall for everyone to see. "It gives the children a real sense of pride," says Lyndsey. "The children in Reception also have their photos displayed on their class walls - parents can send in details of 'wow' things they have achieved at home that then get stuck on the wall for all to see."

"The school also has a fabulous home school reading challenge. Every child has to read an amount of times per term at home," explains Lyndsey. "If they manage this, they're awarded a certificate and a prize," says Lyndsey. "We've found it works very well for our children. They're very intent on getting those prizes!"

Parent involvement is valued and encouraged

Opportunities for parent participation are encouraged at Ellison Primary School. "You can get involved in lots of ways, for example, as a parent governor, or through the Parent, Teachers & Friends Association or via volunteering for class reading sessions," explains Lyndsey. "As parent governors, we've seen rapid progress in the three years our girls have been there. Communication is a real strength of the school; they use lots of different methods like parent forums and workshops. These are great ways for parents to understand what happens in the classrooms and to be involved in their child's learning," says Lyndsey. "We really value the opportunity to have extra involvement and insight into our children's education."

"We can't thank the school enough! It's down to them how independent our girls are and how enthusiastic they are about learning."



Children say:

Libby says: "I really like the extended writing I get to do because I get to work independently and use my imagination!"

Maddie says: "I love having the chance to be able to choose what activities I get to do!"



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