

# Natalie believes Ellison Primary School offers a personal touch whilst developing strong, independent children

Natalie and John Maddox live in Chesterton with their daughter, Tallullah, seven and in Year 2.



## Inspiring atmosphere

Natalie was impressed with the school when she first went to view. The atmosphere was friendly and open and she especially liked how the children were taught to be individuals. "There were lots of empowering quotes around the school at child height, from people like Winston Churchill. I really liked that; I found it really inspiring," says Natalie.

## Support for individual children

According to Natalie, Tallulah is a child who is more creative than academic; she can sometimes take a little persuading to focus on more academic learning.

"The school's reading challenge has really motivated Tallulah to read at home. The reward system they have for this is a great idea and gives them something to strive for," says Natalie.

The Maddox family the fun learning methods used at Ellison Primary School have really helped to support Tallulah's learning. "The school always puts on exciting and fun activities which inspire the children and complement the current theme of learning. For example, Tallulah is learning about food at the moment and is really enthusiastic about an upcoming visit to a carvery to cook with a chef," explains Natalie.

## Reassuring communication

Natalie is very positive about the level and methods of communication offered to parents by Ellison Primary School. "I think communication is a real strength for the school. For example, if Tallulah has had an accident at school, rather than just a letter sent home, there will be a phone call too, which is really nice," says Natalie. "They don't hesitate to ring you. It's usually followed by an email or a text message as well. It's those personal touches that I don't think you can beat for a sense of reassurance."

As a working parent, Natalie isn't always around to do the school run, but has been really pleased with the opportunities to speak to teachers, if needed. "It's not always easy to have a chat first thing on a morning or at pick up for me, but I have always found the school really accommodating if you need to speak to teachers. And what's great is that they always remember you," says Natalie.

## Before and after school care

Being a working mum, Natalie was keen to find a school that could offer continuous care for both before and after school too. Ellison Primary School has been able to do just that. "Knowing your child is happy in their environment when you're not there is so reassuring. Tallulah loves the Care Club and it's a great continuity of her education," says Natalie.

## Life skills

Teaching children life skills is something Natalie and John feel Ellison Primary School do really well. "Tallulah is on the School Council - we think it's a brilliant opportunity giving her a real sense of responsibility," explains Natalie. "The council has to come up with ideas on ways to improve the school. We think it's teaching Tallulah wonderful skills for the future in terms of public speaking and leading conversations. And her confidence has grown as a result," says Natalie. "Tallulah likes it because of the importance of contributing to decision-making."

## Encouraging individual thinking

Natalie feels Ellison Primary School is really supporting Tallulah to become a strong, independent and self-assured individual. "Tallulah is not a follower; she's not afraid to be assertive with her opinion. I love that! The school really encourages the children to be individuals."

"There is nothing we can fault about Ellison Primary School - we are very happy with it! I'd recommend anyone to walk around the school and really absorb the wonderful, motivational atmosphere," adds Natalie



## Children say:

Tallulah says: "I really love my role in the School Council - actually I love everything about the school. The teachers are really nice!"



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