



Kamaljit is **grateful** to Milking Bank Primary School for the care and **support** it has given to her family's **individual needs**

### In high demand

When Kamaljit and Manjit first moved to Dudley, places at Milking Bank Primary School were in high demand. With Avneet being diabetic and insulin dependent it was important to them that she secured a place at a caring school close to home. They were absolutely thrilled when two places became available for Avneet and her cousin, Amanjeet: "We'd heard such positive things about Milking Bank Primary School, we knew we really wanted our children to go there," says Kamaljit.

Kamaljit and Manjit Nijjar have two children, Avneet, 13 and Ranveer, 5 in Reception. They live in Dudley with Harninder (Kamaljit's sister) and her husband, Balbir Nijjar (Manjit's brother) and their children, Amanjeet 13 and Pavan 9, in Year 5.



## First class care

It was important to the family that the school understood Avneet's needs but that they didn't treat her differently to the other children. "Every school we'd been in previously requested that we go in and administer Avneet's insulin. Milking Bank Primary School didn't ask us to do that; instead some of the teaching assistants were trained so that they could administer it."

"The staff were absolutely fantastic! Avneet said she felt school was like her second home, they looked after her so well," says Kamaljit. "I really can't fault the care they showed her during her time there."

## Understanding of individual needs

When it came to applying for Ranveer's school place the local authority declined Milking Bank Primary School because Avneet had already moved up to secondary school. "We appealed because my sister's child was still there; as we all live together my children consider their cousins as their siblings," explains Kamaljit. "Harninder is in full time education so I'm often the primary carer for her children too; for me to be in two different schools at the same time was impossible!"

Kamaljit adds: "Ranveer was born prematurely and has a reserved character where it takes him time to feel comfortable in new surroundings. We felt it was important for him to be in a settling environment and it was the ideal school due to past experience with Avneet and because Pavan was there."

Kamaljit spoke to the Headteacher and found him approachable and understanding. "The Headteacher was welcoming and kindly offered to say a few words on our behalf, which I really appreciated. It showed how much the school cares about the welfare of its pupils."



## Inclusive of all cultures

As predicted, Ranveer has settled well into school life and is enjoying his time there. As practising Sikhs, another important factor in securing a place for him was the need for him to feel comfortable in his headscarf. "It was important he felt welcomed and we knew the ethos of the school would mean the children would do that," says Kamaljit.

## A nurturing environment offering a bright future

When Amanjeet went to Belgium for the Year 6 school trip, Harninder was impressed with the teacher's interest in ensuring she could support him with his headscarf and was happy to show her how to do it. "As a parent it's very reassuring to know your child is their utmost priority. It also shows their respect for the different cultures and religions. Every experience is always a positive one, ensuring nothing holds the children back, which is wonderful!" says Kamaljit.

She adds: "Milking Bank Primary School is like an extension of our family. It offers a safe and nurturing environment where children thrive and are taught to respect one another, regardless of race, disability and gender. We believe the children that go here are offered a brighter future."

## Children say:

**Ranveer, 5 says: "I love Mr Mason, the Headteacher's assemblies and the teachers are very caring."**

**Avneet, 13 says: "I loved the care they gave me while I was there!"**

**Pavan, 9 says: "I like all my teachers because they are caring and make learning fun!"**

**Amanjeet, 13 says: "There were lots of activities to choose from. The Belgium trip was my favourite!"**



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