



Natalie is grateful to Milking Bank Primary School for the **nurturing environment** it provides to **support** and **encourage learning**

### A nurturing environment

The size of Milking Bank Primary School really appealed to Natalie and Mark. "We were looking for a school that wasn't too big and somewhere that had a lovely community feel. Of course, we'd also heard great things about the school from other people. It felt like the right environment for Jack so we were very relieved to be offered a place," says Natalie.

Natalie and Mark Norris live in Dudley with Jack, 6 in Year 2, Katy, 4 at nursery and Charlie, 2.



Everything seemed to suddenly click for Jack in Year 1. As a summer baby he joined the school as one of the youngest and Natalie found it took him a little while to build his confidence. "He was doing fine in Reception but when Year 1 came along, he just took off," says Natalie. "We think the nurturing environment at Milking Bank Primary School has been something that has really helped him to settle in to school life."

## A good balance

Natalie and Mark are really pleased with how much Jack's confidence has grown during his time at Milking Bank Primary School. He initially found it easier to learn his phonics by sight rather than by sound. Natalie liked how the school supported Jack's learning style while continuing to encourage him to work with phonic sounds. "They were happy to go with whatever was working for Jack, rather than pushing something that didn't feel right for him. The teaching staff supported him to take things at his pace, and worked with him to improve his concentration levels and his focus on learning," explains Natalie. "The staff are incredibly caring. We think they have a great balance between nurturing and focused learning. Jack's very happy there and loves learning!"

## Exceeding expectations

A lot of the staff are very experienced at Milking Bank Primary School and have been at the school for a number of years, which Natalie believes is a real strength of the school: "You can tell the teachers enjoy their job by their enthusiasm for the children, by how much enjoyment they get from watching the children grow and learn and from the way they know so much about them. It's an indication of a good school for me when the staff choose to stay for so long. Whilst we had heard very good things about Milking Bank Primary School, I think it has exceeded our expectations."

## Staff who are approachable and willing to help

"You can always approach the teachers if you have any concerns," adds Natalie. "We've had very few issues, but in Reception we found them very helpful when offering guidance on how we could support Jack at home."



## Individual needs

Natalie is delighted with Jack's progression at Milking Bank Primary School. "He's not especially competitive but Jack does like to achieve and to do well and this shows in his progress in class," she says. "He absolutely loves the maths lessons. We've seen first hand the way the staff will cater to different learning styles and I'm sure this happens across the years," says Natalie.

## An environment where children can thrive

"We feel confident that there is always plenty of support available at Milking Bank Primary School. Jack thoroughly enjoys his lessons and the way different topics are taught. He comes home enthused by them, which is wonderful to see. We really feel it is the Milking Bank Primary School environment and the caring staff that has encouraged his enthusiasm for learning and helped the growth in confidence."

Natalie adds: "We have no hesitation in recommending Milking Bank Primary School. It's a very welcoming and friendly school which actively supports and encourages children so that their learning can thrive."



## Children say:

**Jack says: "I especially like maths and learning about all different things!"**

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