

Robert and Rebecca are both **thriving** in the **comfortable environment** of Oakfield Community Primary School



Lisa and Arlind Cana live in west Dartford with their ten-year-old twins, Robert and Rebecca.

Welcoming atmosphere

"I thought Oakfield was a brilliant school from day one," says Lisa. "It wasn't the nearest school to our home but we had come back to live in Britain after being abroad and had to take what we were offered," Lisa says. "I had a good feeling about the school as soon as we went in during the summer holidays to familiarise the children with it. The head teacher and a lot of the staff were there that day and were really welcoming."

Enjoying learning

Lisa says Oakfield encourage the children to enjoy learning by providing a nice mix of written work with fun activities and trips to reinforce what they have been taught. "The staff have recognised that Rebecca is good at Literacy and have given Robert support in areas where he needs it and so they both like going to school. Robert recently said to me: 'The school week goes by so quickly.' That means he is focusing, engaged and interested in what he is doing. The twins are also interested in the different topics they study each term. Topic work gives the school chance to teach in different ways, with some written work, some practical tasks and some trips out."

Varied activities

Oakfield help working parents by putting on a breakfast club and an after school club at a very reasonable cost which wrap around the school day. They also put on a range of activities for children to participate in after school, such as sports, chess and dancing. "The school is a modern, bright environment for the children to work in and the teachers make the classrooms look attractive by putting plenty of work on the walls," Lisa says.

Talents spotted

Rebecca's talent as a dancer has been recognised and encouraged by the school and she was invited to take part in a gifted and talented dance programme. Robert is keen on sport and was invited to participate in a gifted and talented event for football. "I am pleased the school take the time to find out what the children are good at," Lisa says.

Caring staff

"All the teachers, TAs and office staff can't do enough for either the children or the parents," Lisa says. "Robert recently went on a trip and was apprehensive about staying away from home but we encouraged him to go because we thought he would enjoy it."

The staff did everything they could to make him feel comfortable while he was away and also texted us with updates which was reassuring."

Staying in touch

The school are good at communicating with parents and the staff are very accessible. Lisa says: "If you have any concerns you can talk to someone straight away or email them if you can't go into school. They will also communicate everything parents need to know by either parentmail, facebook, email or texting. They ask how you would like to be communicated with to make it as straight forward as possible for you to be kept up to date."

Children say

Robert says: "I like it that the school has a football team."

Rebecca says: "The teachers are really nice and make learning fun as well as educational."

