

**Right from the start,
Lynne realised that
Paddock Nursery, Infant
and Junior School was
exactly what she felt a
school should be**



Lynne Hardy lives in Paddock with her daughter Khaya, six and son Kalie, who is five.



Clouds really do have silver linings

There can't be many people who are glad that they were unsuccessful in a job application but Lynne is one of them. Looking for work once her children had started school, she just wanted something which would fit in with their hours and felt that more or less anything would do. Initially she was disappointed when she was turned down on her first attempt but had she been accepted she would not now have been in a job she loves and which could not be more perfect for her and her children.

Amazing co-incidence

"I wasn't too fussy about what I did as I just needed to work," she says, "but whilst I was looking I had time to settle Khaya and Kalie into school every morning and I liked the chance to help them put their coats and bags away and to sort their reading books out for them at the start of the day. When the Headteacher saw how much I liked to be involved with the children she suggested that I did some volunteering work in the classroom and from there I have gone on to become a Classroom Assistant. It was an amazing co-incidence that someone was needed just when I needed something myself, and I could not possibly be happier."

What you want for your children

Lynne had fallen in love with Paddock School even before Khaya started there. "I saw all the lovely playground equipment and thought how much my children would like to play there," she says. "Inside, the classrooms were bright and cheerful and more importantly, the teachers were so friendly and enthusiastic and I just knew this was what a school should be like. To be able to work there as well is absolutely wonderful."

Incredible progress

As in many schools, Paddock has a proportion of children with additional needs and Lynne's role is to provide one-to-one support where required. "As far as I am aware, Paddock would never turn a child away and the attitude is 'if we can possibly help, we will'. I have seen incredible progress in the children I have worked with and it is so good to know I have been able to make a contribution. I feel so strongly about what I am doing that I still volunteer outside my working hours; like the rest of the staff, I never want to let the children down."

Making learning fun

Lynne's job has given her an insight into how important it is to engage the attention of the pupils, so that they actively enjoy their lessons as well as their playtime. "At Paddock School we make lessons fun. If we can sing the alphabet rather than just repeat it, or use toy sacks in French lessons to help the children using visual aids then we will. They find it interesting and exciting and it is such a contrast to my own education. During breaktimes, the outside apparatus and equipment encourages interaction which really helps to build friendships, so that in spite of the fact that so many different languages are spoken they learn a great deal from each other. At this age, children have brains like little sponges and I love it when my children come home with words and phrases in Russian, Urdu, Chinese and Spanish; they will remember it and benefit from it."

A close and comfortable relationship

Asked what she feels is Paddock School's greatest attribute, Lynne struggles to find only one. "Perhaps the best thing is the teacher/pupil relationship which is close and comfortable. The teachers do an amazing job and work very hard indeed to get the children to where they need to be. My own children are very happy at school, are doing as well as I could hope both academically and socially, and their experience is reflected by that of their peers. I am so glad I didn't get the first job I applied for - I am where I want to be, right here at Paddock."

Children say

Khaya: "I like all the teachers and enjoy doing French. I like dinner time because the food is yummy!"

Kalie: "I like the playground and all my friends and I like playing on the slide. I like my teachers because they help me learn."



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