



David and Claire believe smaller village schools can have lots of advantages and that Tebay Community Primary School offers them all

David and Claire Penhallurick live in rural Cumbria, approximately six miles from Tebay Community Primary School with their daughters, Rowan, four, who is in Reception and Aster, three, who will start Nursery in September.

The school of choice

David and Claire looked at a variety of local primary schools but Tebay Community Primary School particularly had a number of strengths making it the right choice for their family. "There were lots of positives for us. The Headteacher listened to us and was very approachable; we felt we could have a good relationship with her. The Early Years teaching came across as exciting; there was a large achievements board on the wall as you walked into the school with the children's hard work on display. They children were very proud and eager to show us what they had achieved, which we really liked."



The whole package

David and Claire were keen for their children to attend a school which achieved good academic results from children from a range of different backgrounds. "Tebay offers this," explains David. "And as we walked around the school there was a clear structure to the day for the children which was good. We also received very positive feedback from parents, so we felt, taking all of these things into consideration, Tebay was a great choice for our children's education."

A good feeling

The school's atmosphere really put David and Claire at ease. "I'm a real believer in gut reactions and we got a good feel during our visit," says David. "The children were respectful, but there was also lots of happy noise; we felt this told us a lot about the school's environment. As a consequence, Rowan has adapted quickly."

As Rowan's first year at Tebay draws to a close, the feedback received from teaching staff about her progress has also impressed David and Claire. "We receive regular updates and all of the teachers are open and approachable. It's obvious that they have the best interests of the children at heart."

Opportunity for personal attention

According to her delighted parents, Rowan is progressing incredibly well. David says; "Although Rowan is in reception she is already doing Year 1 work. She has the freedom to explore the things she is interested in and there's a lot more opportunity for personal attention. We believe her progress is down the school recognising, challenging and stretching her natural ability."

Motivating and rewarding

Rowan is naturally quite competitive and David believes the school is managing her desire to learn well. "She takes a lot of pride in the reward systems in place; Rowan enjoys receiving stickers and trophies for her hard work and achievements. The recently introduced 'bucket filling' is a hit with Rowan and she tells me daily who has added pebbles to the class bucket. We think all these things are very good at motivating and encouraging children to try really hard."

Catering to individual needs

David adds: "We think there's a real place for smaller village schools with smaller class sizes. Teachers have the ability to dedicate time to teaching children as individuals and to adapting the curriculum to the skill level of each child. This was one of the

main reasons we relocated from London to Cumbria and Tebay does it very well."

Safe and protected

Aster's preliminary visits as preparation for starting in Nursery in September have also made a positive impression. "I noticed how the older girls made sure Aster felt safe and protected during her visit. There was a very apparent sense of responsibility from the more senior children. I think this caring nature is another advantage of a smaller school. You get a real sense of community, which is exactly what we wanted for our children."

David adds: "Tebay Community Primary School offers our children a wonderful nurturing environment in which to learn. Rowan is thriving and we believe Aster will too."

Children say:

Rowan says: "I like school because I can write questions down and google them."



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