

Jessica is now **all set** for secondary school **thanks** to the **caring staff** at in Temple Hill Community Primary School



Gemma Cook and her partner Lee Adamson live in Temple Hill Dartford with their children Courtney, aged 14, Jessica, aged 11, and Reagan, aged seven.

Helpful staff

Jessica is in her last year at Temple Hill and is excited about starting at secondary school - a move her mother believes would not have been possible if she had not been given so much care and support. Gemma says: "I am so grateful for all the help she has been given by the school since she was first diagnosed with ASD and ADHD.

She is going to a mainstream secondary school in Dartford where her sister goes and is really looking forward to it. I will be anxiously waiting to see how she gets on, but I know that Temple Hill have done everything they can to help her."



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Early years

"Jessica used to get upset when she first started in the nursery at Temple Hill and would cry if another child touched her but we didn't know what was wrong with her at that time," Gemma says. "It was only after her younger brother was diagnosed with ASD that we realised Jessica might have the same problem. Reagan was in the nursery when his condition was diagnosed and Temple Hill helped me find another school for him that was more suitable for his needs."

Concentration issues

By the time Jessica was referred to hospital she had moved further up the school. Gemma says: "A member of staff from Temple Hill kindly came with us to the appointment where they did some tests and diagnosed her with ASD and ADHD. One of the effects was that she couldn't concentrate properly, which was affecting her school work."

Improved attitude

"The school were very helpful and the staff had meetings with me to work out the best way to help her learn. At first she wouldn't even try to read a book and when I asked her to read to me at home she would get upset. The school were very understanding and said that reading had to be on Jess's terms. She has made a really big improvement now and will read to me sometimes during the evening. Her attitude towards learning has changed a lot," Gemma says.

One to one support

"They helped Jessica at school by taking her into another room and giving her individual attention. She gets embarrassed if she has to read in front of other people and so in my opinion the thing that has helped her the most has been having one to one support from her teacher. Also, at lunchtimes they made sure she had somewhere to go where she could relax if she didn't want to go into the playground," Gemma says.

Caring teachers

"I am very grateful to the school for all the support she has had over the years. Teachers have come and gone during that time but they have all been very helpful," Gemma says. "They have also given me practical support such as letting me drop her off at the breakfast club so I can take my son to school and getting her to do jobs for the school at the end of the day while she waits for me to pick my son up again."

School trip

"I was confident Jessica would enjoy the school trip to Wales this year because she likes her teacher, who went with them. I was pleased she wrote to me from Wales saying she was having a good time. A few years ago she did not want to write anything, but now she will sometimes sit down and write a story, which is real progress," Gemma says.

Children say

Jessica says: "I like my teacher and enjoy helping out at the Homework Club for the infants on Wednesdays."



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