



# St White's School has supported Jodie Brain's three children to discover that they love learning both in and out of the classroom

**Jodie is mum to Hollie who is in Year 4 age 9, Daniel who is in Reception age 5 and Amber who is in Year 10 at Forest High.**

## Warm and welcoming

Everyone is made to feel welcome at St White's and this starts from the minute you walk in. "School feels warm and welcoming. In comparison to other schools, there's no feeling of it being an institution as everyone always says hello and makes you feel part of the community. Mrs Tilling always says, "You're always welcome for a cup of tea and there are always biscuits in the cupboard," says Jodie.

## Lasting impact

Amber was the first of Jodie's children to attend St White's and she is now

in Year 10. "St White's were extremely supportive when Amber was with them. At St White's, they quickly identified Amber's specific needs and worked with us to create a My Plan which identified lots of things that the school was doing to help her in school. They also helped us with ideas that we could use at home. As she went up through the school, we continued to work together as a team, and they made sure that all her teachers knew how best to help her and to work with her to support her to learn. In year six, St White's worked hard to support with her transition to secondary. Her dream is to work with horses, and at St White's they recognised her love of animals and supported this. With the

continuing support of St White's, and her secondary school, Amber's still doing very well," says Jodie.

## Settling into school life

"Hollie is doing well and makes the most of all the opportunities that she's been given at St White's. She's very focussed, always wanting to go above and beyond. She's very athletic and plays football and attends the school's football club, and she has her school dance club showcase coming up this month. She's tried gymnastics but her niche is dance. Daniel has settled into St White's brilliantly; he was straight in on day one with all the other



children. St White's works closely with nurseries to make sure that everyone has what they need as soon as they start here. Daniel was familiar with the school from coming with me to pick the girls up, the teachers all knew him already and they make all the children feel really welcome," says Jodie.

## Boosting up

St White's are quick to identify when extra help is needed to support children on their learning journeys. "Daniel has been receiving a lot of help and has had a My Plan since he started. He gets lots and lots of support in class which really helps. He is also going to an additional booster session on a Friday morning for his phonics. There's always support when the children need it and it's made to feel part of the school day rather than something extra. Hollie was struggling with her maths, so she's been going to the additional booster session on a Wednesday morning and that has helped very much," says Jodie. The school works closely with a lot of outside agencies

so that they can get the right help for the children as soon as it is needed.

## Part of the school family

"Children blossom at St White's. The teachers are so warm, welcoming and supportive. Erica the family support worker is lovely. All the children love her and her office is covered in thank you cards. Erica and Mrs Tilling still check in with Amber: they say the children never really leave. Amber loves Mrs Tilling and when I pick the other two up, she still likes to come with me just to say hello," says Jodie.

## Activities and trips away

"There is such a multitude of activities that happen at school, from Forest School to Cookery Club - there are always things for the children to enjoy. The school has an allotment which is wonderful: the children grow plants and pick fruit. There are residential trips which all the children love. On the year 4 residential they

sleep in bell tents, and they had to use a compost toilet which was a hot topic of conversation when Hollie came home! Miss Cinderey was so lovely. She read stories to them at night when they struggled to get to sleep, and this really helped them" says Jodie.

## Celebrations and rewards

St White's create lots of opportunities for the children to be rewarded and feel part of the larger school community. "There is the Golden Table where the children have lunch with Mrs Tilling as a reward for good behaviour and they have their houses for which they earn points, plus celebration assemblies. There's so much to get involved with and be part of - it makes the children want to do well," says Jodie.

## Children say:

**Hollie says:** "Dancing is my favourite activity."

**Daniel says:** "I grew a sunflower in my classroom."



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