



Sue and Paul McEniff live in Ashby de la Zouch with their children, Finn, aged nine, and Beatrice, aged seven

Finn and Beatrice have been encouraged to fulfil their potential by caring staff at Woodcote Primary School

Good start

Sue McEniff is full of praise for the accommodating and supportive staff at Woodcote Primary. "When Finn started in the reception class at the age of four, nothing was too much trouble for the school. Finn has hemiplegic cerebral palsy and so I talked to the school in advance and explained about his needs. Everyone was very supportive and welcoming and whatever he needed was put into place."

Organised environment

Sue said the classroom had to be right for Finn so an occupational therapist went into the school to assess his surrounding and recommend things he would need, such as grab rails in the toilets. "The staff were very understanding and trusted me to explain Finn's requirements to them. They never refused to listen or thought they knew best."



The school have also allowed me to spend time in the classroom and work with Finn's teachers to make sure everything is right for him. They have always been happy for me to go in and make suggestions."

Accepting advice

Sue said Finn has found Maths difficult because of the nature of his condition. "But thankfully the school have been willing to take external advice about how to help him with his Maths from a cerebral palsy charity. I am pleased that the school are always looking for ways to support Finn and are prepared to take expert advice. I know from talking to other parents that some schools are not nearly so open to suggestions or so flexible."

Confidence building

Woodcote have not only been helpful with Finn's physical and educational needs but also with his emotional needs, Sue says. "They have really helped to boost his self-esteem and confidence. They have always made sure he is included on sports day and in other activities and they gave him a big speaking part in the Nativity play just before Christmas. Their aim is always to make sure he reaches his full potential."

Favourite subjects

Finn particularly enjoys History and Science because he has a photographic memory for facts and figures, Sue says. "He is a bright boy and is already excited about going up to secondary school and I know he will be well prepared as they are already starting to get them ready for it during Year Five."

Enjoying learning

Beatrice loves going to school and is full of enthusiasm for what they do at Woodcote each day, Sue says. "She is very bouncy and keen to take part in things and the staff have also been very encouraging and supportive to her. You can always go in for a chat about her progress and you feel that the teachers really know and understand the children in their care."

Encouraging participation

"Beatrice has taken up the cello, which she really enjoys, and is getting rather good at it. She has also recently joined the choir. The school encourage all the children to take part in sports and, if a child isn't keen on a particular activity, they try to find out why and see what they can do to make it more enjoyable for the child," Sue says.

Working together

"I have two very different children but the school have the same attitude to them both. They do everything they can to make sure they both succeed and become the best they can be at everything. We are working in partnership with Woodcote because we encourage Finn and Beatrice at home and we know that they are well supported at school and that we all have a consistent approach," Sue says.

Children say

Finn and Beatrice say: "Woodcote School is really good as you get to learn."



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