



Nicola and Paul Wood live in Ashby de la Zouch with their daughters, Caitlin, aged 15, Sarah, aged 12, and Rosie, aged seven

After years of experience the Wood family can tell things are getting better and better at Woodcote Primary School



Good start

Rosie, who is now in Year Two, is the last of the three sisters to attend Woodcote Primary and her Mum, Nicola, thinks the school continues to go from strength to strength. She says: "Rosie has had a really positive experience so far. She hadn't been to playgroup the year before she started in the reception class and I was worried she wouldn't be used to the rough and tumble with lots of other children, but she settled in quickly and has loved all her teachers."

Parents valued

Nicola thinks there is more parental involvement than ever before. "For instance, the children are sometimes set a project to do at home and have ten days to complete it and then the parents are

Sharing skills

Nicola is also pleased parents are being encouraged to help in the school. "The head teacher asked any parents with useful skills to volunteer, so I go in on Friday afternoon to do baking. The children really enjoy it and get a sense of achievement from making things. Parents also go in and do football training with the children. It gives children the chance to try things they might not have the opportunity to do at home."

Encouraging talent

The family moved to Ashby when Caitlin was in Year Three and Sarah had just started school. Nicola says: "When we first went to the school we tried to tell the staff that Caitlin had been on the gifted and talented register at her previous school and needed to be challenged. They quickly assessed her and by the first parents' evening they were full of praise for her."

Building confidence

Sarah also had a great time at Woodcote. "She has just left and started at secondary school, having reached Level Six in Maths in her SATS. She was lucky to have the same teacher for three years who really got to know her and encouraged her and helped boost her confidence," Nicola says.

Effective changes

Nicola believes the current head teacher has made a huge difference since she started. "She clamped down on bad behaviour and made some really good changes. The rewards system and the attendance competitions between the classes she introduced have been very effective. Also, they don't queue up any more in the morning, they go straight into the classroom so they are ready to start the school day. I think this has helped with the general atmosphere in the school."

Family fitness

"The school have just started a fitness club for the children on a Wednesday morning before school, which Rosie really enjoys. I think it is good for the kids to let off steam before going into the classroom. Afterwards there is a fitness class for the

parents to attend after the kids have been dropped off. I know another Mum who goes to it and she is really enjoying it," Nicola says.

Happy atmosphere

"When I'm walking home with Rosie, lots of children from Year Five and Year Six will say hello to her. She knows children higher up in the school that she can go to if she has problems. There is now a culture of everyone looking out for each other at the school, which is lovely," Nicola says.

Children say

Rosie says: "Woodcote is an amazing school and you get to do a lot of fun activities."



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