



Luisa and Gennaro Borrelli live in Leighton Buzzard with their sons, Antonio, aged ten, Fabio, aged eight, and Nicolo, aged two.

Antonio and Fabio developed educationally and socially in the nurturing environment of Leedon Lower School

Kind staff

Luisa and Gennaro are delighted with the good start made by both Antonio and Fabio at Leedon Lower School. Luisa says: "I've always loved the school because it's such a happy, nurturing environment. When Antonio started in the Reception class they

did an amazing job, giving him one to one care and support in the areas where he needed it most and since then he has come on in leaps and bounds. The staff were kind to him and he felt loved. I don't think he ever had a bad day at school."

Learning outdoors

When Antonio went up to into Year One he continued to progress well both socially and educationally. "The school provide an enriching curriculum for the children. The staff seem to really understand boys and know how to get them interested in learning by providing the right kind of topics and plenty of outdoor activities. The school had a larger farm when Antonio started, with animals for the children to visit. The staff provided a practical approach to learning that particularly suited boys," Luisa says.

Social skills

By the time Antonio reached Year Two, he was very good at reading and his writing had also come on a lot. Luisa says: "The school also gave social skills and communication skills a high priority, which I think was absolutely right. I believe this really helped Antonio's development. I was confident he was ready and well prepared to move up to his middle school when the time came."

Academic progress

Fabio went through very much the same introduction to learning at Leedon as his brother and has thrived on it, Luisa says. "Fabio is now doing very well academically. He's in one of the top sets for

Maths and is being given lots of opportunity to improve his writing. The school are preparing him both mentally and orally to do a big piece of writing each week and I can definitely see that his written work is improving as a result."

Activities and trips

Luisa is pleased that Leedon has an excellent cookery room where the children can learn to make things. "Fabio loves cooking and made a wonderful pizza recently, which we all enjoyed at home. Leedon are probably the only school in the area that provide a field trip each term for each year group. When they were studying the Romans they took the children to see the Verulamium museum at St Albans and when they were learning about rugby they took them to Twickenham. It is a lot of work for the staff to put on a trip every term but they are all enthusiastic about what they do."

Caring teachers

Leedon has a good mix of female and male teachers, which Luisa thinks is a good thing for the children. "It really helps boys to have male teachers as role models as well as being looked after by female teachers at this stage. All the staff at Leedon are very committed, caring and approachable which is great for both parents and children."

Helpful office staff

"I would definitely like Nicolo to follow his brothers to Leedon and I always recommend the school to other people I meet. As a part-time teacher myself I can tell that Leedon is a good, well-run school with an excellent head teacher. The office and support staff are lovely and go above and beyond what they have to do and stay and help out at occasions in the evenings, such as school concerts and charity fund raising events," Luisa says.

Children say

Fabio says: "It's always so interesting to go to school, it's never boring."

Antonio says: "I liked all my teachers when I was at Leedon Lower School- they made learning fun."



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