



Christine Nectoux and Neil Holkham live in Leighton Buzzard with their sons, Joshua, aged 12, who attends middle school, and Samuel, aged five.

Samuel is happy and making good progress with the support of caring staff at Leedon Lower School

### Good choice

Samuel has settled in well at Leedon since he started in the reception class last September. His family went to a lot of trouble to find the right school for him because he has special needs. His Mum, Christine, says: "Samuel is really enjoying going to Leedon

but we visited five different schools in Leighton Buzzard before we chose it because we wanted to make sure we picked the right school for him."

## Receptive Head Teacher

Christine and Neil had a discussion with the head teacher about Samuel's requirements and made him fully aware of their son's difficulties. "We felt Mr Benson at Leedon was the most receptive of all the head teachers we spoke to. From our initial discussion, he felt that the school would be able to meet Samuel's needs but wanted to discuss Samuel's situation with his Special Educational Needs Coordinator first. He got back to us later the same day and said they would be happy to have Samuel as a pupil. The main reason we chose Leedon was because Mr Benson was interested in Samuel's circumstances and he got back to us quickly with a positive answer," Christine says.

## Nursery visit

Samuel started at the school in September 2015 just before his fifth birthday and settled in extremely well. Christine says: "Before starting school, Samuel used to attend a nursery situated 15 miles outside of Leighton Buzzard. The Special Needs Coordinator and

the lady who would be giving him one to one support visited him there to get to know him and see him in that environment so they could understand his needs in advance. The nursery wasn't anywhere near the school and they had to go out of their way to get there so we were very impressed."

## Enjoying reading

"Samuel particularly likes doing phonics and writing now he is at Leedon. He can spell and write his name and knows all his letters. He has always liked books and enjoys reading," Christine says.

## Football fun

"Samuel is a very happy little boy with an infectious laugh. Other children seem to be drawn to him and like to play with him. He particularly likes playing football with the other children in the class. He will always have difficulties but he is making steady progress and is definitely going in the right direction. The school go over and above what they have to do for Samuel and this is one of the reasons why he has made so much progress over the last few months," Christine says.

## Help with mobility

"The staff are always keen to find ways of helping Samuel and because he is not as mobile as the other children they have got in touch with his physiotherapist to ask for exercises that they can do with him at school to help him become more mobile. I am impressed that they are prepared to look outside to get him the help he needs," Christine says.

## Right approach

Christine would recommend Leedon to any parents looking for a good lower school for their child. She says: "I would like to emphasise that the staff are particularly good with special needs children and have the right approach to caring for them within a mainstream school."

## Children say

**Samuel says: "I like going to school and playing football with my friends."**



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