



Drapers' Maylands
Primary School



Teaching Assistant Laura Phillips divides her time between both reception classes at Drapers' Maylands Primary School, working alongside the teachers. She is also currently training to be a Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

Laura loves her **new role** providing **exciting learning opportunities** for the children at Drapers' Maylands Primary School

Fun learning

Laura has enjoyed every day of her first year as a Teaching Assistant at Drapers' Maylands. She says: "The children love coming to school and arrive every day with big smiles on their faces. I have never been in a school like it before. Everything is new and dynamic and we are constantly adapting the teaching to make it fun for the children and keep them excited about learning."

Next stage

Laura is grateful to have been given the opportunity of working at Drapers' Maylands after spending several years working as a Key Person and SEN coordinator in nurseries and pre schools. "It has been really interesting seeing the next stage of development after the children leave nursery and start school. I feel very fortunate to have been given the job and opportunity to further develop my career," she says.

Enjoying phonics

Laura's favourite part of the day is delivering phonics lessons because the children enjoy it so much. "They get quite excited about which sound they are going to learn each day. We deliver the lesson in small groups, using silent signals throughout for the children to follow, ensuring a calm and relaxed lesson. We start off by saying the sound and drawing the pictures to illustrate the sounds. We make the lessons fast and upbeat so that it is fun, which helps them remain focused and learn. Many of the children are reading well now and taking their phonics books home with them to share with their family."

Developing skills

The highlight for Laura has been seeing how far the children have come since they started at the school in September. She says: "It has been amazing to see the progress they have made. They are lovely, polite, young people who have developed many new skills."

Team spirit

"I also love the way the whole team are involved in everything. We are all consulted during discussions about the school and the children's learning and everyone's ideas are valued and taken on board. As we all know the children very well, we have ideas about how to deliver something effectively. If we find a particular aspect of the role interesting, the Principal ensures that we have the opportunity to develop that interest further. She is very encouraging and supportive and will either give us the chance to go on courses or will deliver training after school to help us progress," Laura says.

Development opportunities

"I would recommend working at this school to any teacher. I would say: 'You will never have experienced a school like this before. We are a close knit team that enjoy working together and you will constantly learn new skills. No one is just left to do the job, you will be able to follow your interests and encouraged to set your goals high.'"



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Drapers' Maylands Primary School
Settle Road
Harold Hill
RM3 9XR

Tel: 01708 371 331

Fax: 01708 347 515

Email: admin@drapersmaylands.com

Web: www.drapersmaylands.com

Office Manager: Mrs Pauline Goodfellow