



Drapers' Maylands  
Primary School

Newly qualified teacher Lysette Stepaniuk takes one of the reception classes and is the Reading Leader at Drapers' Maylands Primary School. She also leads on Forest School, an important part of the curriculum at the new school.

Lysette has got off to a **flying start** in the **new and exciting environment** of Drapers' Maylands Primary School

## Good start

Lysette's first year teaching has been a wonderful experience. She says: "It has been fantastic starting at a school right at the beginning with its first intake of children. It opened in September with just two reception classes and all the resources were brand new and up to date. I started working here in July, building on the foundations of the school, then the rest of the team joined in September. We climbed the O2 in London as a team building exercise and we now have real team spirit."

## Laying foundations

"In the mornings after we have welcomed the children and taken the register we have a Read Write Inc phonics session, which is the systematic approach to reading and writing we use. We teach Mathematics skills through Little Big Maths and give the children the opportunity to apply their skills through play. We are preparing the children with the skills they need to move on to Key Stage One next year," Lysette says.



## Learning outdoors

"I lead on Forest School and am currently studying for my level three qualification in it. Forest School goes hand in hand with the ethos of the school by encouraging the children to be independent, confident and self-regulating. We have a forest that we can walk to in about ten minutes and go in groups of 12 supervised by members of staff and parent helpers. We look at the changes that take place during the different seasons and play games and encourage the children to use their imaginations. We enable children to learn through independent exploration and planned activities such as identification, shelter building and the use of tools."

## Language support

"One third of the first intake of children have English as an additional language so it has been an extra challenge communicating with those children and their parents. We provide the children with EAL interventions, where they play games in small groups, to reinforce English words, such as colours and animals," Lysette says.

## Celebrating diversity

"We encourage the children to talk about their different cultures and when there is a festival, such as Diwali, we have an assembly about it and then do activities in the classroom. Sometimes parents will come in to talk about their cultures and some of the Hindu children brought in pictures of their Diwali celebrations at home to show us."

## Seeing progress

"The highlight of the year has been seeing how the children have progressed. Starting right at the beginning has enabled me to watch the first intake of children develop their skills," Lysette says. "I would definitely recommend the school to other teachers. We will have a purpose built new building next year and there will be many opportunities for professional development. Any teacher who is dedicated would be welcomed and given a lot of support by the team."



**Drapers' Maylands  
Primary School**

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

Tel: 01708 371 331

Fax: 01708 347 515

Email: [admin@drapersmaylands.com](mailto:admin@drapersmaylands.com)

Web: [www.drapersmaylands.com](http://www.drapersmaylands.com)

Office Manager: Mrs Pauline Goodfellow

