

Zoe Foord and her husband, Laurence, live in Southsea with their twin daughters, Freya and Symi, aged 13, and their son Sam, aged ten.



The twins and Sam were helped to achieve their best in the caring atmosphere of Wimborne Junior School

Enjoying learning

Zoe and Laurence have been delighted with the way their children have been encouraged to fulfil their potential academically, while also having a lot of fun during their time at Wimborne Junior School. Zoe says: 'The staff are great at seeing who needs help and making sure they get it. They are not just trying to get children to reach the average level, if they think someone can get to the next level, they will do as much as they can to help them achieve it.'



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Exciting move

Freya and Symi came up into the juniors from Wimborne Infant at the age of seven. 'They were well prepared for moving up because the junior school was next door to the infant school and they had been to some of the after school clubs in the junior school,' Zoe says. 'They also spent an afternoon in the junior school to get them used to it. They weren't in the least daunted and actually found it quite exciting.'

Bright start

'The twins have always been in separate classes so that they can make their own friends and I wanted them to remain in different classes in the junior school. Thankfully the school also advised us to let them stay in separate classes. But they were both made to feel welcome and got on well right from the start,' Zoe says.

Sports opportunities

'For us the sports activities are one of the big positives about the school. It was good when the girls were there, but it has got even better while my son has been there. There is a lot of opportunity to play sports after school. I believe learning how to play a sport and taking part in competitive games does wonders for children's confidence. The girls got the opportunity to do netball and football after school, but Sam has also been able to do basketball and cricket.'

Good support

'The twins were born in August so they were young in the year and when they were in the infants they were sometimes judged to be working at a lower level than where they should be in some subjects.'

However, I was pleased that by the time they left the junior school they had caught up and were exactly where they should be. They were given extra assistance before they took their SATs.'

Fun trips

'Sam is also now getting extra assistance in various lessons to enable him to achieve his best in the SATs. But he likes the way every term when they study a different topic the teachers incorporate fun sessions and trips relating to it. Parents receive plenty of information ahead of the time, which is helpful. The children enjoy a break from the work but are also still learning. I am glad I have never had any of my three children say they don't want to go to school one day.'

Welcoming environment

'I had no worries about the girls moving on to secondary school. They were well prepared for the change and I am confident Sam will be too. As a parent I find Wimborne Junior is always a welcoming place and I can approach the staff with concerns and know I will be listened to. I have been really happy with the school and would recommend it to other families, based on my own children's experiences.'

Children say

Sam says: 'During my time at Wimborne Junior, the teachers and all the staff, have helped me get through my challenges. For me the most important thing has to be the sport; basketball, netball, rugby, cricket and most of all football! Playing sport helps me to get to know other people. In my years at Wimborne Junior, I feel like there has been a rise in my confidence.'



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