

Kate Dennis and Jay Roberts live in Southsea with their daughter, Maya, aged 11, and son, Evan, aged nine.



Maya and Evan enjoy working and playing in the happy atmosphere of Wimborne Junior School

Good balance

Kate and Jay are pleased Wimborne Junior has got the balance right, encouraging the children to produce good work but also allowing them to have plenty of fun. Kate says: 'There are lots of enjoyable trips but the school also has high expectations of the children. They had a talent show recently, which the kids all enjoyed, and they regularly take them out of school to go to the cinema or to visit art galleries, but they also encourage them to work hard and fulfil their potential.'



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Trips away

'The staff prepare the children gradually for residential trips. In Year Three they have a sleepover at the school and dance, play games and have hot chocolate before they go to sleep. In Year Four they take them on a trip for one night. In Year Five they have two nights away and in Year Six they go for a longer stay to the Isle of Wight. It is good to build up to the longer trip so it doesn't come as a shock to be away for so long. Maya and Evan also enjoy the school discos each term!'

Interesting topics

'Maya came up from Wimborne Infants with lots of children she knew. They had been on plenty of visits to the junior school the term before and she settled in well. She did some interesting topics, including one about chocolate that she really enjoyed. Maya's favourite subject is now English and she loves writing stories. Both children love the 'hook days' the school organises at the start of each topic to draw them in and they love having the opportunity to share the work they have produced during the 'topic outcome days' when parents or other family members are invited in to see what has been going on.'

Great teaching

'Now Maya is in Year Six and looking ahead to starting at secondary school later in the year she is sad to be leaving Wimborne Juniors. Some of her friends are really excited about going up but she often says she wishes she could stay at Wimborne Juniors because she doesn't want to leave. Over the years she has made plenty of friends and she has had some really good teachers.'

Making friends

When it was his turn to go up, Evan said he didn't want to leave the infants. 'I was worried he wouldn't settle in the juniors but

he was fine. He loved his first teacher in Year Three and has enjoyed all the trips and made lovely friends,' Kate says.

Following politics

'Now Evan is in Year Four he enjoys going to school each day and the children in his class are lovely. He particularly likes topic work and is interested in geography. They watch Newsround in the afternoons and he has become interested in current affairs and politics. He often wants to discuss international relations at the dinner table!'

Encouraging progress

'The school is good at helping children with different abilities. They will challenge the more able children to help them progress and will help the not so able to improve. There are lots of clubs after school and a breakfast club on site, which is good for working parents,' Kate says.

Approachable staff

'When we go to parents' evenings we are always made to feel welcome by the staff. You can tell the Headteacher really cares about the school. She is always in the playground in the mornings welcoming everyone. I would feel confident about going to her with any issues, or to any of the teachers. I would definitely recommend Wimborne Juniors to other families.'

Children say

Maya says: 'I like going to Wimborne Juniors because the teachers are really kind and supportive.'

Evan says: 'I like Wimborne Juniors because we do fun topics and go on lots of trips.'



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