



St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

Let God's love shine in our lives, as we care, share and learn together



Inesa Ruleviciene lives in Balby with her sons, Augustas, aged sixteen, and John, aged nine.

Inesa has been **proud** to see her sons **develop** and **flourish** during their time at St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary

Good start

Inesa has always been very happy with the progress her sons have made at St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School. She says: "When Augustas first started at the school at the age of seven he knew only two words in English; 'Hello and Byebye'. We had just arrived from Lithuania and he understood only Lithuanian. But within one month of starting at St Francis he was speaking and understanding English well."

Learning language

The school really helped him and speaking English with the other children brought him on quickly, Inesa says. "I always tried to encourage him to become good at English because I knew how important it was for him to learn the language as soon as possible. I am very proud of what he has achieved. He is now in the sixth form and doing very well in all his subjects."

Hard work

Four years after he started learning English, Augustas had a poem published in an anthology of work by young writers that had been submitted by his teacher. Inesa says: "He was a good pupil and the staff at Saint Francis helped him progress. I was out at work a lot at that time and unable to help him with his English but he worked hard and succeeded at school all by himself."

Enjoying nursery

John started in the nursery at St Francis at the age of three. Inesa says: "He could speak English and had no communication problems and settled in well and made some good friends. He was familiar with the school and knew some of the teachers because we lived close by and he was used to going with me to take Augustas. He has always had a lot of friends and has liked all his teachers and the Headteacher."

Developing well

Now he is in Year Four, John is doing well in most subjects and particularly enjoys reading and writing. "Sometimes he has a little bit of a problem with Maths and I have to help him at home," Inesa says. "He likes doing his homework and works hard. He doesn't need to be pushed. When he was smaller I had to encourage him more but now he knows he has to do his homework. I think he is being well prepared for secondary school. He has grown up into a very kind, helpful boy. He understands that I have health issues and he is a big help to me at home."

After school

John enjoys the after school clubs put on each term for the children at St Francis. Inesa says: "He has done baking, reading for pleasure and 'plonkers'. He also likes playing football and singing because he has a good voice. He enjoys playing in the school playground with the same friends he has played with since the reception class."

Good choice

"We are a Catholic family and I am therefore happy that St Francis is a Catholic school but that is not the main reason I like the school. Even if I was not a Catholic I would still think it was a good school. I originally chose St Francis Xavier because it had been recommended by other people and now I would be very happy to recommend the school to other parents as well. It has turned out to have been a good choice for my sons and I have been very happy with the school. I have now joined the midday staff at St Francis and am enjoying working there," Inesa says.



John says: "I like going to school to see all my friends and play with them in the playground."



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