

# Katie and Maisie are forging ahead encouraged by the friendly staff at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Charmaine and Simon Bellis live at Eakring with their daughters, Katie, aged nine, and Maisie, aged six.

## Rewarding progress

Charmaine and Simon are delighted with the way staff at St Joseph's continue to encourage and motivate their bright daughters. Charmaine says: "They are both very good academically and the school have sometimes allowed them to work at the level of older children to keep them interested and enable them to progress. I also think the reward system is very good as it encourages all the children to try hard. Katie and Maisie love being given raffle tickets for good work as it gives them more chance of winning a small prize in the weekly raffle."



## Good report

The girls are both happy at St Joseph's and have never once said they didn't want to go to school, Charmaine says. "The school is relatively small and the teachers know all the children really well so it has a lovely, friendly atmosphere. St Joseph's was round the corner from where we used to live, but we chose it because it had the best Ofsted report of all the schools in the area and now we are really pleased that we did."

## Extra homework

Katie started in the nursery when she was three and then moved up into the school. Charmaine says: "Katie was the youngest in her year as her birthday is at the end of August. She has done brilliantly academically but we thought she might struggle socially as all the other children were older than her and she was a little bit shy. But the school were really good at making sure the other children interacted with her and she did not get left out. Because she was bright they gave her extra homework to help her progress and incentives to succeed. She is good at everything but particularly enjoys writing and art."

## Enjoying reading

Maisie's experience was completely different as she is the oldest in her class. Charmaine says: "She has never had any problems mixing as she is very outgoing. Because she was good academically when she was in the reception class she was sent into Year One a couple of times a week to do letters and sounds with the older children. She enjoys reading and writing and bringing home books to read. When she had read all the books in the reception class she was given books from Year One to read."

## Good values

Charmaine and Simon like the ethos of the school even though they are not Catholics themselves. "The girls enjoy learning about the Catholic religion and also about other religions. The staff teach them good values, supporting what we are teaching them at home. I like the way the school focus each week on a different value."

## Fun with Mathletics

Charmaine says: "We are pleased they get more homework than children we know who go to other schools. We believe homework reinforces what they have learnt at school and helps them progress. The girls enjoy doing Mathletics at home on the computer, which supports what they are learning in Maths and they love getting certificates for their Mathletics work. They also enjoy going to the after school clubs. Maisie does Crafts and Katie does Crafts and extra Mathletics."

## Building confidence

"I would recommend the school to other families as both my children are happy there. The teachers get to know all the children well and are able to encourage their strengths and work on their weaknesses and I am really pleased with the way they have helped Katie gain confidence."

## Children say

Katie says: "I really enjoy literacy work and am pleased to have my pen licence so I can now use a pen at school."

Maisie says: "I love going to school and enjoy everything we do."



## How to find us

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