

# Peter James is making good progress with the help of caring staff at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Peter and Annmarie Gray live in Ollerton with their son, Peter James, aged six, daughter, Shyanne, aged four, and son, Michael Thomas, aged two.

## Improved speech

Peter and Annmarie are thrilled with the progress Peter James has made since starting at St Joseph's. "Peter James was diagnosed with mid-level autism when he was younger and could not say anything, or do a full session at nursery. But the care and attention he has received since starting at St Joseph's has been marvellous and he can now talk to us and tell us what he has been doing at school each day," Peter says.



## Good care

Since being in the nursery, Peter James has had a one-to-one carer with him throughout the school day. He also has a speech therapist coming into the school to work with him. "It was daunting when we were first told Peter James had autism but the speech therapy has made a big difference and the school have gradually built him up so that now he in Year 2 he is doing a full day at school," Peter says. "He is really happy at St Joseph's and is learning to read and write and likes doing Maths. His teacher told us he has really taken to Maths. He enjoys reading and wants to read books at home."

## Catholic ethos

"We chose St Joseph's because we are a Catholic family. I like the way they bring the Catholic religion into a lot of the things they do at school. Now Peter James can sit for longer we will be able to take him to St Joseph's Church. He is interested because he has learnt about it at school," Peter says. "When he was first diagnosed a lot of people didn't expect him to do nearly as well as he has. We were told that he might be better off at a special school, but then someone suggested St Joseph's and he has never looked back."

## Playground fun

"Peter James enjoys playtime now. A couple of years ago he wouldn't have mingled with the other children, but now he's got a group of friends. He used to stand on his own in the playground but now he will join in games with the others and tells me about what he has been playing when he comes home," Peter says.

## Technology skills

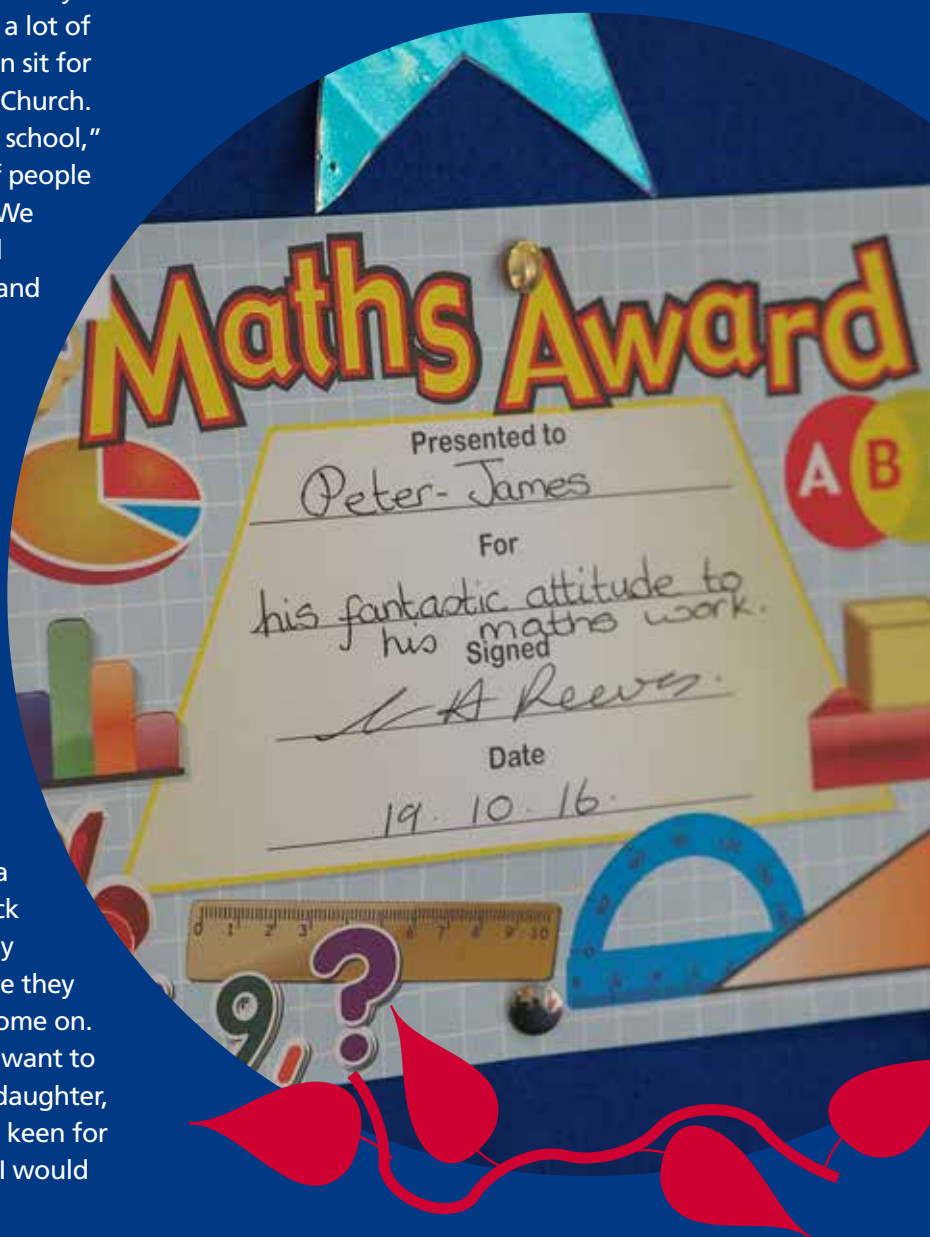
"He loves doing work on the computer and is a whiz with his i Pad. He knows how to work it better than I do. My parents go away to Australia for six months at a time and when they came back last time they were amazed at the difference they could see in Peter James. He wasn't talking before they went away so they could see how much he has come on. St Joseph's is a great primary school. The staff all want to do as much as they can to help the children. My daughter, Shyanne, is very happy in the nursery and we are keen for Michael Thomas to start when he is old enough. I would recommend the school to anyone," Peter says.

## Settling down

"I am from a traveller background and never had much schooling myself. I travelled about after I was born and was taken to Australia when I was two. But I have settled down now because of my son. We came to live in Ollerton because my parents lived here and said we would stay until Peter James is sorted out. He is so happy at St Joseph's, I wouldn't want to move him. The world will still be out there for us when Peter James has grown up."

## Children say

Peter James says: "I like going to school and love going on the computer when I have finished my work."



## How to find us

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