

**Elisaveta and Daniel live in Bracknell with their children, Ruben, aged 13, Diana, aged 12, Abel, aged 10, and Abigail, aged 3. Ruben has learning difficulties and started in Reception at Kennel Lane when he was 4½.**

## **Ruben now has a bright future because of the valuable skills he has learnt in the supportive environment of Kennel Lane School**

### **Enjoying learning**

Elisaveta and Daniel can now see a good future for Ruben, thanks to the progress he has made during his nine years at Kennel Lane. Elisaveta says: "Now Ruben is 13, he has learnt a lot of new skills and has already started thinking about his future. He's a lot calmer than he used to be and he can communicate better now. He is enjoying learning and always wants to do his homework straight away when he gets home."

## Suitable school

Elisaveta says Ruben had learning difficulties and needed one-to-one support when he first started school, but wasn't given the right help at the mainstream school he was sent to initially. She says: "Ruben's speech was delayed and at home he would just point to something he wanted. When we moved to Bracknell for work, the local authority offered him the choice of a mainstream school or Kennel Lane. I visited Kennel Lane and straight away realised it was far more suitable for Ruben than his previous school because it was much smaller."

## Fast progress

"When Ruben first started at Kennel Lane, he could hardly say anything, but his speech and communication quickly improved. At the mainstream school, he had refused to wear the uniform and he had wanted to go in the same clothes every day, but within one week at Kennel Lane he was willing to wear the uniform. Very quickly we could see a difference in him and it was even more apparent to members of our extended family, who didn't see him every day. They were amazed by the way he had changed after starting at Kennel Lane when they saw him."

## Speech breakthrough

"We chose to speak with Ruben in English at home because we thought it would be better for him and when he was about 5 and started to be able to say what he wanted, it was a massive step forward for us all. Our main focus was his vocabulary and we encouraged him to speak to us at home as much as possible."

## Social interaction

"Ruben also became much better socially, would interact with others more and his behaviour improved a lot. He used to have tantrums and lie on the floor, but after a couple of months at Kennel Lane he stopped doing that. He has now made some good friends among the other children and is looking forward to going on a school trip with them soon."

## Supportive staff

"The teachers say Ruben is now meeting all his targets. I have always felt supported by the staff at Kennel Lane and have known that if I have ever had a problem, I can talk to them about it. We are grateful that the staff have shown a lot of patience with Ruben over the years and we know they all care about him," Elisaveta says.

## Career aspirations

"Ruben has told me he is looking forward to getting a job and says he would like to work at Tesco. He likes cooking at school and will now help me cook at home. He loves to bring cakes home when he has made some at school. He can follow instructions and understand a recipe now. We couldn't be more delighted with the progress he has made since starting at Kennel Lane."



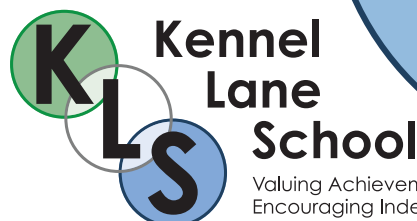
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