

# Kharis believes that the dedication, commitment and the support of teachers at The Oaks Primary School is to thank for her son's progress

Kharis and John Lee Sheppard live in Ipswich with their children, Myah-Leigh, 12, Nevaeh-Jean, 8 in Year 4, Tarran-John, six, Year 2, and Elissa-Karis, five, Year 1, Persia-Faith, one



## Supportive of additional needs

Kharis and John Lee chose The Oaks Primary School after moving house in February 2015. "I'd heard a lot of good reviews about the staff and the facilities at the school and I was told that they deal with underlying health problems very well, which was important for me as Tarran has some additional needs with his learning, so they were the key factors in choosing The Oaks Primary School."

## An understanding approach

Kharis had noticed that Tarran seemed to be struggling to understand different aspects of his learning and that his speech and language weren't where they should be. "I'd raised my concerns at his old school but never felt supported. The Oaks has taken a very different approach for which we're very grateful."



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Tarran has been referred for assessments and had speech and language therapy and very good support from his teacher; we've noticed a real difference in Tarran as a result of the support he has received."

## Working together

Staff arranged for an Educational Psychologist to visit the school, as well as a speech and language therapist. "Initially, the speech and language therapist felt there was nothing really concerning and discharged Tarran, but teachers at The Oaks pushed for another assessment, because for us, who see him every day, it's very obvious things aren't right. I've really appreciated the school's support and I've felt it's been about working together."

## Dedicated Support

Kharis has been impressed with the level of individual support Tarran has received and the resulting progress he has made. "The school has put in place one-to-one speech therapy a few times a week and an extra teaching assistant in his classroom who works with Tarran, if needed. He's not able

to absorb and memorise information aurally and finds it much easier to learn things if he has visual cues, so they've used picture cards within his lessons to support his learning."

Delighted, Kharis adds; "Thanks to the teachers recognising Tarran has additional needs and catering to his individual learning style, he has really developed. It's incredible how much his reading has progressed in a year!"

## Feeling included

Kharis believes this has all helped Tarran to feel included in class and like he can participate, which in turn has helped him socially. "The other children appreciate he has some additional learning needs and don't exclude him because of these. Thanks to the support he is receiving, he feels able to participate in lessons which has been important for growing his self-esteem and confidence."

## Each child is an individual

Elissa is one of the youngest in her Reception year. "She's also immature for her age," explains Kharis, "so she's

finding the transition into school life a little more challenging, but the teachers are very good at nurturing her and managing her emotions. I think one of the key strengths of the school is the ability of the staff to treat each child as an individual. They're very talented at their job and genuinely want the best for each child."

## Somewhere children want to be

Nevaeh, according to Kharis, is thriving in The Oaks' environment. "She's always done well at school, but she's very content here. She finds the lessons fun and exciting and has a good social circle. The Oaks is somewhere she wants to be and I think the friendly, welcoming, approachable attitude of the staff really contributes to this."

Kharis adds: "We've no regrets in choosing The Oaks Primary School. It's an excellent school with kind, caring staff who nurture the children. There is no judgement from anyone; they're approachable and understanding and I think it all helps to make for a very welcoming and accepting environment making it a lovely place to be."

## Children say:

**Nevaeh says:** "My teachers are great and the work is really interesting."

**Tarran says:** "I love the school because the teachers are so kind."

**Elissa says:** "My favourite thing about school is my teacher."



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