

# Corrine and Simon are delighted with the rapid progress made by their daughter Lydia at Midfield Primary School



Corrine and Simon Tucker live in St Paul's Cray with their daughters, Lydia, aged five, Rebecca, aged three and Daniella, aged one.



## Good progress

Corrine has been amazed by what Midfield has achieved with her eldest daughter, Lydia, in just one academic year. She says: "Lydia has just finished the reception class and she is already reading and is able to do simple sums. She is mixing well with children from different backgrounds, even children older than her. I am really pleased when I see her greeting everyone and being so happy to go to school."

## Learning through play

Before Lydia started at Midfield, Corrine had been worried that the British education system would be too rigid and academic for her. "I am Dutch and I was aware that compared with Holland the pressure is higher for children in the UK. In Holland the children don't wear a uniform and they go home for lunch when they are in primary school," she says.

"But now Lydia has been at Midfield for a year I feel very reassured. There is plenty of time for playing, both indoors and outdoors. Lydia couldn't read when she started school and now she is bringing home simple books. Once a week they have Forest School looking for bugs and wildlife and she didn't even like crawly creatures before. She has also started Maths and is counting and doing sums. It is amazing what she has learnt in a year."

## Positive changes

"We liked Midfield because of its proximity to our house but also because we had heard good things about it. We had been told that there was a new head teacher and that she had made some good changes because she was determined to make the school outstanding. We knew a family with a child who attended Midfield and they had told us some positive things about the school, which have all proved to be right," Corrine says.

## Settling well

"Right from the start Lydia has fitted in really well. The staff helped her settle in and she established some good friendships and was happy immediately." Corrine believes that school is not just about the academic side but that the social side is also important. She says: "Lydia is mixing and playing with other children, learning to share and to take turns with things. At lunch time the playground is divided into different areas where the children all play together happily. They are not just running around, they have some excellent wooden playground equipment that they all love."

## Welcoming staff

"We have always been made to feel welcome by the school. There is a teacher at the door very morning so that you can ask questions or discuss things about your child. There is usually a senior team member at the outer gates for people to chat to. It is a help to parents to have people to speak to in the mornings," Corrine explains. "I've not had any real problems, but even for little things you want to mention they are there for you and will take note. For example, we got to a time when I thought the books Lydia was bringing home were too simple so I mentioned it and she started coming home with different ones."

## Friendly environment

"Lydia is now very happy at Midfield and is thriving and learning loads of things. She is also making lots of new friends. I am glad that my second daughter, Rebecca, who is three, will be starting at Midfield in September 2015," Corrine says. "I would definitely recommend the school to other parents. I believe the new head teacher has made a positive impact and that Midfield is now a lovely school with some excellent, new staff."



## Children say:

Lydia says: "I love going to school and learning things and playing with my friends in the playground."



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