



Is a story yet to



Krystyan, Elijah, Lilah and Avaiah have all thrived in the friendly environment of Ballymena Primary School

Vicky and Nathan live in Ballymena with their children, Krystyan, aged 11, Elijah, aged 10, Lilah, aged eight, and Avaiah, aged six.

Kind teachers

Vicky and Nathan are glad they decided to move their children to Ballymena Primary because of the wonderful support they have received there. Vicky says: "We love the atmosphere of the school and the way the staff go above and beyond for the children. Krystyan's teacher was fantastic and helped him pass for the grammar school and Elijah and Lilah have also both benefited from the help they have been given."

Prompt action

Vicky and Nathan did not move their children to Ballymena Primary when they first came to the area. Vicky says: "We took them back to their old school to begin with, but I became concerned that Lilah seemed to be having difficulty learning. I mentioned it to the school but they insisted there was no problem. We thought Ballymena Primary looked quaint and went to look round and liked it immediately. Within a month of Lilah starting, the school had run a diagnostic test and picked up that she had dyslexia. She now has a SENCO who does extra English and Maths with her. I knew she was having difficulties, but her old school wouldn't listen to me."



Exam success

"All the children settled in at Ballymena Primary quickly. The two boys have autism so we were concerned about them changing schools, but they formed nice connections with their teachers and the transition was easier than we expected. Krystyan's teacher was patient, kind and motherly. She understood his issues and made his new environment work for him. She helped him get through the transfer test for secondary school by keeping him beside her in class when he was struggling. As a result, he passed and is now at grammar school. She was very proud of him and gave him a big hug. It took him three months to settle at grammar school but he is okay now," Vicky says.

Making friends

Elijah also has autism and is very emotionally distant, but he quickly developed a good relationship with his teachers, Vicky says. "At his old school he never had friends, but the teacher put him next to another boy and they hit it off, and he now has other friends as well. He will be sitting his transfer test this year and the teacher is very attentive to his needs. There is a quiet corner in the classroom where he can go and sit if he feels overwhelmed."

School councillor

Vicky says Lilah is much happier at school now she is receiving the extra support she needed. "She also has a very caring teacher who keeps a close eye on her. She is very popular with the other children and was elected to be on the school council this year."

Fun outdoors

Avaiah started at Ballymena Primary when she was four and is doing very well there. "She loves going to school and has a good relationship with the teachers. Like the older three, she enjoys doing Forest School, playing in the mud kitchen, growing flowers, and toasting marshmallows," Vicky says.

Caring staff

"When my husband was in and out of hospital and the children were sometimes upset, the staff were all very supportive. If one of the children went in crying in the morning, they would contact me later to let me know they were all right, which was very considerate. We couldn't be happier with the school and are very pleased we moved the children there."

Children say

Elijah says:

"I Like my teacher and my den in the classroom."

Lilah says:

"I like art and playing with my friends."

Avaiah says:

"I like my friends and playing in the play room."



Mrs E. Ritchie (Principal)
Ballymena Primary School
 101 Ballymoney Road,
 BALLYMENA, BT43 5BX
Telephone: 028 25656082
Website: www.ballymenaprimary.org.uk

