

Stavros and Iliana live in Crowthorne with their son, Mimi, and daughter, Georgina, who are twins aged 12. Mimi has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

Mimi is now flourishing and is keen to take part in everything thanks to the supportive staff at Kennel Lane School

Enjoying learning

Mimi is very happy at Kennel Lane School and enjoys a real sense of achievement whenever he makes progress. His Dad, Stavros, says: "Mimi is trying hard to be independent and when he masters something, such as dressing himself, he is very pleased with himself. If he gets an award for something he has done at school, he comes home really happy."

Helpful therapy

“Mimi is benefiting from receiving one-to-one tuition and having music therapy and massage therapy, all things he wouldn't have been able to have at a mainstream school. He enjoys doing dance and drama and the staff say he always wants to participate. He has been described to us by his teachers as ‘a smiley boy, who is keen to do everything,’” Stavros says.

Good facilities

Mimi has been attending Kennel Lane School since he was seven years old. Stavros says: “He had previously attended a mainstream primary school, but by his second year at the school he was struggling to cope in the surroundings. We wanted to move to Bracknell where there was a good grammar school for our daughter and so we looked for a good special school for Mimi. Kennel Lane offered facilities that would help him, such as physiotherapy that could make his movement better and they also offered home to school transport, which is very helpful to parents.

Building on strengths

“Mimi has loved the school since the first day he started. They work on bringing out the strengths of the child and encourage them to build on them. He loves music and they quickly got him on to a computer so he could play different instruments through the computer. He loves doing Forest School and having lessons outside in the forest and he seems to positively enjoy getting dirty.

Numbers and words

“We saw Mimi make immediate progress with things such as reading and counting. He soon learnt to count up to ten and we discovered he could also read words on the television screen. Now he can make good sense of what he reads and can speak well. His sentences are not perfect, but he can communicate with us effectively.

Lines of communication

“Communication between us and the staff at Kennel Lane is very good. We have a communications book and they write a few lines in it every day to keep us informed about how he is getting on. If we ever want to ask anything, we can write the question in the book and send it in with him.

Learning from staff

“The staff are always approachable and they sometimes put on classes for parents so we can work with the children at home and maintain consistency in the way things are done. We recently learnt about Numicon, a method for counting. We might take things like dressing ourselves and managing buttons and zips for granted, but Mimi has had to be taught how to do it by the staff. The good thing is that if the teachers ask him to do something, he will do it,” Stavros says.

Respect for teachers

“Mimi has been very happy at Kennel Lane School and has made friends with the other children in his class and sometimes goes to their birthday parties. But the staff are what he loves most about the school. He has loved every single teacher he has had and looks up to them all. The staff have also always been very helpful to us and if we have ever had to contact them about anything they have sorted it out for us straight away.”



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