



F R E W E N



C O L L E G E

NORTHAM, EAST SUSSEX

The Dyslexia Specialists

FREWEN PREP SCHOOL: A PARENT'S VIEW

"Oliver had always been a cheerful, sociable boy but each year at primary school his confidence ebbed away as he found learning more and more difficult. We suspected he was dyslexic but were advised not to have him assessed until he was in Year 3. It was a very worrying time for us; as parents we didn't know how best to support him in his learning. When we did try to help, he was very reluctant to engage or would get frustrated.

When he was eight, Oliver was assessed by an educational psychologist who confirmed that he was severely dyslexic but a bright boy with good verbal reasoning skills. It was a relief to be able to explain to our son that he was bright but found learning difficult because the dyslexia meant he learnt in a different way. It was a huge weight off his shoulders and as a result he started to articulate how he felt about his learning difficulties. For example, he told us that he disliked being taken out of his classes for extra support at his primary school, because it made him feel different and he was missing all of the subjects he loved such as history and art.

We were determined to find a school for him where he would be nurtured and supported. We understood that he needed multi-sensory learning with more 'learning by doing' to unlock his potential. We looked at mainstream Prep Schools but the additional support was 'bolted on' to the day to day lessons which we didn't feel would best meet his needs. We knew he needed to be in an environment with specialist teachers who could provide one to one support day in, day out.

We were very fortunate to find Frewen Prep School which offers all of that and much more. Oliver has been at the school for a year now and he is a different boy – happy and confident and enjoying school. He loves being in an environment where he is not different and the children are very supportive of each other. The teachers know and understand him as an individual and provide encouragement and support to build on his strengths and address his weaker areas. They do a thorough assessment of each child to identify gaps in their knowledge and then put into place an individual programme of learning and therapy. Oliver was assessed by the

school's occupational therapist who made various recommendations including weekly hand writing therapy. This was good news as we had been paying for an occupational therapist outside of school.

We have been very pleased with the academic progress that Oliver has made. At parents' evening his teacher showed us a piece of descriptive writing he had done and we couldn't believe the high standard of his work. When we asked how she had achieved it, she told us that instead of talking in class about being in the woods, they went and sat in the woods and listened to the sounds and felt what it was like. As a result his piece of work was much better informed and he was more engaged with what he was learning. The school use this method of multi-sensory teaching a lot and Oliver finds it much more exciting.

Oliver, like many dyslexic children, is very creative and responds very well to the 'creative curriculum'. This means that the school uses one theme for each term such as 'African Safari' and uses this to teach all the various subjects in a more engaging way. Oliver really enjoyed the African theme and produced some lovely pieces of artwork as well as PowerPoint presentations about animals and Nelson Mandela.

Oliver was referred to a behavioural optometrist because of some visual weaknesses and now wears glasses with a blue tint. Fortunately, because of the supportive environment of the school he is comfortable about wearing them, whereas he wouldn't have been in his previous school. Additionally, the school catering staff have been fantastic about providing a special diet as Oliver is intolerant to certain foods."

"Choosing Frewen Prep has been one of the best decisions we have made. We feel very privileged that our son is able to attend the school and benefit from the fantastic teaching and learning facilities, especially with acres of open space to explore. We would recommend the school to any family with a dyslexic child."

Mrs R, parent, April 2013