



Jay Cha and Alex Park live in Malmesbury with their twin sons, Aidan and Brendan, aged seven.

Aidan and Brendan are enjoying learning a third language with the help of staff at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Fluent English

Twins Aidan and Brendan speak Korean at home with their parents and often converse with each other in German because until last year they were educated in Austria. But thanks to the support they have had since starting at St Joseph's they have now learnt English as a third language and are already speaking it fluently and reading and writing it well. Their father, Jay, says: "The school have given the boys lots of help with learning English and now they are speaking it well they have been able to make friends."

Homely feel

"We moved from Linz in Austria to Malmesbury last August when I began a new job with Dyson and the boys started in Year Two at St Joseph's in September. We really love the school because it is quite small and in Austria they attended a small and friendly school so it has made them feel at home. It was hard for them to make friends to begin with because of the language barrier and cultural differences but now they have made some good friends," Jay says.

Catholic education

"I picked St Joseph's for the boys primarily because it is a Catholic school. I'm Catholic and I wanted a Catholic education for them. I really love the school and I like the way the boys are taught," Jay says. "They are learning how to care for others and discovering more about their religion. I like the fact the teachers can concentrate on each child individually. We have been made to feel welcome by everyone at the school and the other parents. The twins love going to church services with their classmates at school and when we are at church as a family on Sundays they like seeing friends from school there."

Class projects

"The twins both love their class teacher and I have found all the staff to be very friendly and professional. They enjoy doing various projects involving different topics each term, in particular when they were studying dinosaurs recently. They loved making dinosaurs out of clay and going to a dinosaur museum," Jay says. "When they are given homework we encourage them to do it between six and seven in the evening. I am a Mathematician and can help with Maths and my wife is a librarian and can help with reading and writing."

Outdoor learning

"The school has a nice outside play area and I know the boys enjoy Forest School outdoors. They used to have a similar thing in Austria and had to put on their boots and go up into the mountains to study the wildlife. We like them to be around nature as much as possible," Jay says.

Language options

"Our family is originally from Korea but the twins were born in Florida. They were living in Austria when they started school so they now speak fluent German. We have a rule that they have to speak Korean at home when we are together as a family. It is their choice whether they speak to each other in German or English, but we are encouraging them to keep up their German," Jay says.

Good choice

"I am glad they have now made good friends at school and get invited to their friends' houses. When it was half term they did not like being at home and wanted to go back to school so they could play with their friends. We are very pleased we chose St Joseph's and grateful for the support they have had with learning English and for being made to feel so welcome."

Children say

Aidan and Brendan say: "We like going to school to play with our friends."



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