

My Story as an International New Arrival

by Adwita Govindarajan



When did you join Oswald Road Primary School?

I joined this school in February 2017. I remember because it was very cold!

Where did you live before you came to the UK?

I lived in a big city called Chennai in the South of India. The weather was very, very hot – sometimes it was too hot and we had to use lots of fans to keep cool! I was born in Chennai and some of my family still live there.



What language do you speak at home?

At home, we speak Tamil and sometimes we also speak Hindi. When we watch cartoons at home we watch them in English. My little brother loves to watch Peppa Pig it really helps him to understand English! When all the family watches a movie, we watch it in Tamil on the laptop. My dad likes to watch Bollywood movies in Hindi too.

Could you speak or understand English before you came to Manchester?

I could speak some English but my English is much better now since I started at Oswald Road school. When I was in school in India we would often do our lessons in English and if I didn't understand something then the teachers would explain it in Tamil.

How did you feel on your first day at Oswald Road Primary School?

I felt quite excited but also quite nervous. If I'm honest, I was a little scared. I remember that we did PE on the first day and that was fun. I made friends on my first day here and the children were very friendly. They said "Can I help you?" and "I can teach you some dance if you would like!" this made me feel happy and nice.

What was the hardest thing about starting a new school in a new country?

It was pretty scary to start because it was very different to my school in India. Oswald Road is much bigger than the school that I went to and I was worried about getting lost!

What was the first word that you learnt in English?

I remember learning the word 'demonstrated' when I started this school – it was nice to learn a new word!

How different is the UK to your home country?

It's really not that different, apart from the weather! It rains a lot more in Manchester and it isn't as warm. I saw snow for the first time this year and that was really fun. I had only seen snow on TV before I came to live in the UK.



What is your favourite thing about living in the UK?



It's not too hot! I like English chocolate, my favourites are Bounty and Galaxy. I love the parks in Manchester, they are much bigger than the ones in India and there are no mosquitos here.

I enjoy going to the swimming pools in Manchester but my favourite thing is travelling on a double decker bus!

What do you miss most about the country that you came from?

My friends – I still speak to them on the phone but I miss them.

I also miss my family and my Uncle's younger brother (he is really cute and dances whenever you play rock music).

I also miss my house but my naughty little brother would sometimes scribble on the wall!