

My Story as an International New Arrival

by Sabastian Klis 4LM



When did you join Oswald Road Primary School?

I joined this school in September 2016 – I came to England a couple of months before I started school.



Where did you live before you came to the UK?

I lived in the countryside, next to a forest in a place called Kety. I had never been to school in Poland, not even nursery, because you have to be about 7 years old before you go to school!

What language do you speak at home?

We speak Polish but sometimes we speak a little bit of English too. We don't have a TV so I sometimes I watch programmes on the tablet.

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

No! I didn't know anything at all and it was hard because I wanted to say things but I couldn't because I didn't know the words. There are quite a few children at Oswald Road who speak Polish and when I first started they helped me. I have four best friends in my class now and none of them speak Polish.

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

I felt sad. I felt sad because I had never been to school, I had never been to England and I could not understand anything. Miss Coombes would hug me a lot if I looked sad. I also felt nervous and I remember the kids in my class stood close to me and smiled a lot and some said 'hello' and others just waved at me.

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

It was the first time I had ever been at a school so I was a bit scared.

What was the first word that you learnt in English?

I think it was probably 'yes' and 'no'.

How different is the UK to your home country?

They speak a different language. The schools are better here than in Poland. In Poland the teachers shout a lot and the school day is 8 hours long. The food is also different. I like both English and Polish food.

What is your favourite thing about living in the UK?

When I first moved here I liked it because everything was new. Now I think the best thing is going to the park. There are more parks here than in Poland.

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

I miss my grandma and the food that she makes. She makes nice cakes. I like these small cakes she makes with jelly and strawberry. She also makes nice dumplings called pierogi. There's a shop near my house in Manchester that sells them and the man that works there speaks Polish.

