

# My Story as an International New Arrival

by Nanci 5CC



*When did you join Oswald Road Primary School?*

I joined this school in March 2018. I was very happy to get a place in this school.

*Where did you live before you came to the UK?*

I lived in a place called Marrazes in Portugal. It was a big town, it was really busy and it is not on the coast. It was really hot in the summer and it could be cold in the winter. I lived in a tower block with my mum and my older brother Alexandre.



*What language do you speak at home?*

We mainly speak Portuguese but sometimes we also speak in English. My mum is really good at speaking English and I am getting much better too!

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

No! Nothing at all! Actually, I could probably say "hello" but that was all. I remember my first visit to Oswald Road and I met Miss Coombes. I spoke in Portuguese and she spoke in Spanish and we understood each other. We also used a little bit of Google Translate and this helped too. It was hard to understand what the other children were saying to me.

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

I felt nervous, excited and a little bit embarrassed because I couldn't speak English or understand any of the things being said, but I was excited to learn and make new friends. I had a 'buddy' to help me in the first few months at school, her name was Abigail and she was very kind and calm and helped me find my way around the school. Abigail also helped

me understand what I had to do in lessons and she made sure that I was not left out at lunchtimes and break times.

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

I wanted to stay with my family and not be in a school where I did not know anyone. It was scary!

*What was the first word that you learnt in English?*

I think it was "hello" and then "cat" and "dog".

*How different is the UK to your home country?*

The school is very different because you have more free time in school in Portugal. I like the teachers here much better than in Portugal...they are calmer here. In Portugal there was a lot of bullying – especially from the boys. That doesn't happen here, so I am more relaxed and much happier here.

*What is your favourite thing about living in the UK?*

I love the snow! I like all of the different foods too! There are so many types of chips here – I love this! I also like the shops here and the toys are much better than in Portugal. There are lots of things to do here.

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

I miss my pets – I had a turtle and a dog and also some fish in Portugal. I really miss them. I also miss my family that are still in Portugal and of course my best friend – her name is Kayla.

*Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself or Manchester?*

I love the Manchester Bees! They are beautiful and I have seen so many of them in Manchester. There are no Manchester Bees in Portugal!

