

# China June 2016

In June 2016, five members of staff visited schools in the Schezuan province of China to compare the similarities and differences between our education systems and cultures. The visit was also to develop relationships between our two countries for future exchange visits by the children. The staff and children were very welcoming and everyone had an amazing experience.

The one thing that the staff mentioned more than anything else was how strange it was that many Chinese people had never seen any non-Chinese people before apart from on the television. This seems difficult to comprehend as here in the UK we live in a multi-cultural society and meet people from all over the world. The Chinese hosts treated our staff like celebrities and the Chinese school children even asked for autographs from our staff!

The food in the Schezuan province was very spicy with red chilies added to nearly every meal. The specialty of the region was hot pot which was a very fiery casserole type dish.

Our staff were able to experience first-hand what it would be like for our children to visit China. Since the visit we have introduced Mandarin to the list of languages we teach at school. We have 22 Chinese children visiting us in January 2017 and next summer we are planning to send 10 of our children to visit a school in China.

