

Visiting friends in Our Global Community

As you know, during half term Miss Hardiman and I were lucky enough to be part of a group of teachers from Liverpool and Somerset who went to visit our partner schools in Chongqing and Zhu Hai in China. We travelled by mini-bus, aeroplane, train and ferry during our 9 days away, travelling over 13,500 miles! In Chongqing, we visited 3 schools and were warmly welcomed in them all.

Children, clearly proud of their school, danced, sang and played musical instruments for us at both Bashu Experimental Primary School and our partner school Bishan Experimental Primary School. There were Tai Chi demonstrations, traditional tea-making ceremonies, art classes and even a lesson on solving Rubik's cube (I found this impossible) and other puzzles including the Chinese kong ming lock (I eventually completed this, yay!).

We learned to eat with chopsticks and ate authentic Chinese food, including the famous Chongqing Hot Pot (super spicy)! We even watched and joined in as the children took part in PE lessons. After spending the weekend in Hong Kong, we moved on to Zhu Hai to visit Yung Wing School. Again a warm welcome awaited us as we toured the campuses that make up the Kindergarten, Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools.

Schools in China are very different to English schools. They are huge with large numbers of pupils on roll. Even in primary school, lessons are taught by specialist teachers, not just one class teacher. A lot of money is being invested in education in China and we were envious of the space and facilities each school had including a running track just like Wavertree, tv studio, dedicated music, art, drama, dance and pottery studios.

However, the one clear similarity between our two countries was very much that children are at the heart of everything we do as educators, parents and communities.

Teachers in all the schools were keen to continue our partnerships and we intend to communicate with both Bashu and Bishan schools. Children across the federation will work with a class in these schools in China to share their ideas. We hope that this partnership and our links with the schools in Chongqing will be successful and we look forward to sharing our creativity and imaginative ideas with children and teachers in China.



