



TUSHINGHAM with GRINDLEY C E PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Executive Head Teacher: Mrs C. Davies
Head of School: Mrs V. Latham (KS1) and Miss N. Smalls (KS2)

*1 John 4:7 Let us love one another, for love is from God.
Learning together and worshipping together*

Dear families,

We were so proud to show the MP Apha Brandreth around Tushingham. She was really impressed with our school and how happy and articulate our children were, asking intelligent questions about her work and the Houses of Parliament which apparently has lots of mice!! All the children, quite rightly, told her proudly all about our school and the wonderful things we do, focussing on mental health as well as a good education through teaching that makes learning fun – these were the children’s words. She said how ‘incredible’ our school is (but we know that). We hope Apha learnt about some of the things we think are important for her to take to London to a parliamentary debate.





Well, the children did report that teacher's make learning fun! And on World Book Day, they didn't disappoint when they dressed up in spectacular style representing Envy, Joy, Sadness, Disgust and Anxiety! The children were equally as fabulous, dressing in a wonderfully creative range of costumes representing a whole host of adjectives - from *sparkly* and *sleepy* to *mysterious* and *magnificent*! Our World Book Day began with a whole-school assembly, where we explored the magic of stories and why reading is so important. Throughout the day, classes enjoyed lots of reading and book-themed activities, sharing favourite stories and celebrating the books we love, discussing and exploring adventurous vocabulary. This year's World Book Day Homework competition challenge to create a book character using a cardboard tube also didn't disappoint, the results were incredible, with so many inventive and colourful characters brought to life and the difficult-to-choose winners being awarded a book voucher. It really was a fantastic day celebrating books, stories and the joy of reading. Our children have a strong foundation for learning as they really do love reading and that is down to how much you support them at home as well as the positive attitude we develop in school. A huge thank you to all the families for supporting the day and helping make it such a fun and memorable celebration of reading!



We were also proud to take so many children to Young Voices – the 'biggest children's choir in the world' – at the Co-Op live arena in Manchester. It was truly special to sing with 8000 other children and some spectacular professional singers and dancers. This is an experience that every child should have. There were some truly memorable moments, with emotive songs and thousands of lights, which we will all remember for a very long time.



Class 3 children have had a busy and exciting few weeks across the curriculum. In English, they completed a poetry unit based on *The River's Tale* by Rudyard Kipling, which involved reassembling a poem using their literacy skills, and finishing by writing their own versions of the river's tale. They also enjoyed a Forest Schools session where they linked their learning to Geography by building volcanoes from natural materials and making them erupt, and to Science by taking part in a bug hunt, exploring habitats, using a digital microscope, checking nest boxes, and helping to maintain the class bug hotel. In Geography, they have begun their volcanoes and earthquakes unit, thinking about why people choose to live near such hazards, while in History they have started learning about the earliest civilisations, discovering what a civilisation is, exploring some of the first known civilisations, and investigating early forms of writing. In Art, the children completed a unit on famous buildings, studying architectural features before designing their own structures to meet specific briefs—including circus schools, aquariums, stadiums, and castles. Finally, in French, they have been learning the names of different foods through the story of *The Very Hungry Dog*, using adjectives to describe them and practising how to express likes and dislikes.



Class 4 are always impressing me with their never-ending stream of work that has earned a golden headteacher's sticker. The quality of writing and maths work is absolutely outstanding – it is always a pleasure to see their proud faces as they explain their work to me. They have also enjoyed lots of science experiments – including one investigating dissolving. Class 3 and 4 demonstrated their independent science skills at the Bishop Heber Science Fair, with some fantastic experiments. In the netball competition at Bishop Heber, Mrs Hunt described them as 'the nicest team we have ever had' and in the Handball competition, we achieved third place with Reuben getting a special mention for his talented goalkeeping.





Class 2 have enjoyed their brand-new book *Grandpa's Gift* through which they have learned that you can find magic and beauty in the strangest of places. Cracking open a dull, drab, grey pebble revealed a rainbow of sparkles and beauty. The children loved designing and painting their own beautiful pebble with messages for the people who might find them. In science they have been learning about Living Things and Habitats so in Forest School the children explored microhabitats. They learned which plants and minibeasts lived in certain microhabitats and made one of their own to encourage wildlife outside. Have a look at their models of microhabitats inside their habitats - they are amazing.



I cannot spend a day at Tushingham without spending some time in Class 1 – I love seeing the inventiveness in their play, expertly enticed by Mrs Jones and it brings joy to me listening to them while I work. I will miss this so much. This half term, they have been enjoying the story 'Let's All Creep Through Crocodile Creek', which has inspired lots of exciting learning. Using our construction resources, the children designed and built their own Crocodile Creeks in the classroom and even wrote warning signs to keep everyone safe! The adventure continued outdoors, where the children worked together to create a life-size Crocodile Creek. To the amusement of the children, I was nearly eaten by crocodiles several times! They have also been busy with our writing, creating sentences to describe crocodiles and making story maps to help them remember and retell the story. In maths, they have been playing games finding one more and one less than numbers by stepping across stepping stones in Crocodile Creek.



I would like to remind you about areas of our website which have lots of useful information, including the school calendar, information regarding each class on the class pages, information about each area of the curriculum and information for parents. Under the Parent information tab, there is a 'Wellbeing Support for Families' page <https://www.tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk/page/wellbeing-support-for-families/127336> which has links to support for a variety of situations. There is also a page dedicated to Mental Health support for families: <https://www.tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk/page/mental-health/123406>



As I come to the end of my time at Tushingham, I would simply like to say thank you to this wonderful school community. Being part of Tushingham has truly been both a privilege and a joy, and I have LOVED every minute—this school has genuinely been my happy place. Only this week, the high school once again commented on how brilliant the children are who come from Tushingham—and I couldn't agree more.

There have been so many memorable moments, from the swimming pool to the 1940's day, residential and trips, science weeks and celebration days, Nativities, Easter and Year 6 plays, Friends of Tushingham events, celebrating the individual achievements of children in celebration worship – I could go on and on. But more importantly than anything, I will remember how I feel when I walk through the door at Tushingham – loved. And that is because we have all worked together so well to make sure our vision of 'Love one another for love is from God' is at the heart of all we do. Staff love the children and each other and because of that the children love us back. It is this that is the foundation of everything.

I am incredibly proud of all that has been achieved in my time here, alongside the remarkable staff and governors I have had the pleasure of working with. So much dedication (lots of time and hard work) happens behind the scenes to ensure your children are supported, nurtured, and inspired every single day. The curriculum offer that we have created here is truly excellent and the teaching that delivers it is excellent too. As I am, you are very fortunate to have Tushingham as part of your journey. The team here is exceptional: staff who care deeply about children's happiness and wellbeing, knowing that this is the foundation for learning; staff who go above and beyond to meet the individual needs of every child; staff whose expertise and passion are truly rare. Please cherish them and continue to work together with them to help your children become the very best versions of themselves—unique, wonderful, and celebrated for who they are. I'll step down from my soap box now, but it felt important to share how deeply I feel about this special place. I won't be a stranger, and I look forward to seeing you at future events and watching Tushingham continue to flourish.

As I say in celebration worship, I really have been the luckiest headteacher in the world to share in the lives of all the wonderfully unique children, staff and families that we have at Tushingham.



Mrs Cathy Davies

Executive Headteacher,
Tushingham-with-Grindley CE Primary School

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Being deeply Christian and for the common good, Chester Diocesan Board of Education and our schools will be communities which are:



LOVING
in relationships



AMBITIOUS
in aspirations



BOLD
in actions

