



Shap School proved a reason to stay in Shap when Katie and Stephen Burke moved their children Beth and Terence from London four years ago

Katie and Stephen Burke have Bethany age 7 in Year 2 and Terence age 10 in Year 6

A warm welcome

Katie and Stephen moved their family to Shap from London and were immediately impressed by Shap school. "Both the children love Shap school. Terence joined in Year 2 and ever since he has thrived. We noticed a lovely positive change in Terence when he started at Shap, it's been a great place for nurturing his confidence. Every child is seen as an individual. From the first week we were mentioned in the weekly newsletter as a new family and it's little things like that, they make a huge difference to feeling included," said Katie.

Strong community

"We've lived here for four years having moved from London. There is a strong sense of community in Shap and they have been very welcoming. School are closely linked to the church and we like to attend when we can. We're musicians so our schedules can be demanding," said Katie.

Settling in well

The children were quick to settle at Shap school and come home regularly sharing the things they have enjoyed learning and doing. "Beth has loved school from the very start. She skipped into nursery and hasn't ever looked back. Both the children love outdoor education. Terence loves science and music. He talks at home about his science work and he's been in the music studio which he's enjoyed. Beth loved having the baby chicks come into school and there was a caterpillar project as well that she talked about a lot. There is always something happening to engage the children with learning," said Katie.

After school clubs

"There are different after school clubs every day. Beth always wants to do the after school clubs, she's done the sports and music clubs. Terence has done science club which he enjoyed. There is a wide range on offer," said Katie.

Shap school made us want to stay

"Our move to Shap came out of the pandemic and part of the reason we've stayed is because of Shap school.

Our school in London was lovely but the change in Terence on joining Shap school made us want to stay. He has blossomed at Shap. We felt very welcomed and Beth settled in easily. We feel Terence is valued by the school community which came across right from the beginning," said Katie.

Moving on to high school

"Terence is looking forward to Year 6. I think he'll be ready to move on but we've not decided where he's going to go yet. School have started to talk to us about open days for high schools which is exciting. Terence has enjoyed lots of trips with school and extracurricular activities plus he has flute lessons at school," said Katie.

Nurturing environment

Shap school have regular times throughout the day, week and month where the children come together. "The children have worship time every day. On Friday afternoons there is the assembly where awards are given out, Star of the Week for example, it's called the Celebration Worship. Visitors regularly come into school to lead worship time who are all linked to the religious and Christian ethos of the school. School's Christian values make school feel like a nurturing environment," said Katie.

Getting ready to soar

"The best thing about Shap school is the way each individual child is well known and well valued. That sense of individuality comes across strongly and each child is encouraged to fulfil their potential academically, socially and emotionally. It's a very supportive environment. "A safe branch from which to soar," is their motto and I think that really reflects the school ethos perfectly, it's such a safe place. By the time the children reach Year 6 they are ready to soar," said Katie.

Children say:

Terence says: "The residentials are great, I loved the rope climbing."

Beth says: "I love doing the nativity."

Ofsted says: The school has developed a broad and rich set of experiences that take account of the local area and the community in which it sits.