



FARMS FOR CITY CHILDREN

Advance Information for Parents & Carers

We provide a unique 'learning through doing' experience of a week in the life of a real, working farm. During their stay, children get involved in all sorts of jobs around the farm. Children work in teams, supervised at all times by a grown up from the school and a member of our farm staff. Depending on the season and on which of the three farms they visit, jobs can include:

- Collecting eggs
- Grooming donkeys and ponies
- Feeding cows, pigs, poultry and sheep
- Feeding lambs and calves
- Beekeeping and birdwatching
- Planting and harvesting in the kitchen garden
- Mucking out horses
- Milking goats
- Checking the health of livestock in the fields

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms, some of which can be transmitted to humans and cause ill health. Some of these, such as E.coli or Cryptosporidium (a microscopic parasite) present a serious health hazard and have the potential to cause serious illness and health problems which may be particularly severe in young children.

Whilst Farms for City Children has carefully assessed all risks on site and introduced rigorous control measures to manage risk as far as is practicably possible, no farmyard is completely free from the risk of infection. As such, and with regret, we are unable to host children who have a compromised immune system. This may include children who have undergone chemotherapy in the past 6-12 months, children who are currently taking steroid tablets or injections, children who have a prolonged high-dose usage of a steroid inhaler, children who have undergone a splenectomy, or children who have any other condition that compromises the immune system. Please speak to your child's GP if you are unsure whether your child may have a compromised immune system.

Farm Health and Safety

- We provide your child with protective outer clothing which they must wear when on the farm.
- Frequent and supervised hand and boot washing takes place after every activity.
- Long hair must be tied back with a simple band. Very long hair must be tied into a tight bun, and long ponytails/braids tucked into the protective jacket provided by us.
- Watches, bracelets and wrist bands may not be worn.
- Hoods on jumpers must be tucked inside the protective jacket provided by us.
- Children MUST keep their fingers out of their mouths and away from their faces.
- If your child is prone to chapped/dry lips please pack a lip balm for them to use inside the building.
- It is forbidden to eat anything while out on the farm.
- Teachers from your child's school remain in loco parentis throughout your child's visit to our farm.

You can help prepare your child by encouraging regular and thorough (1 minute with soap and water) hand washing at home.

If your child is unwell with vomiting or diarrhoea in the 2 weeks before visiting our farm please ensure that both we and the school have been advised of this in advance.

If your child is unwell with vomiting or diarrhoea during the visit or in the 2 weeks after they return home, please ensure that both we and the school are advised of this. You should follow NHS guidance for both E.coli and Cryptosporidium, and seek medical advice if vomiting or diarrhoea is severe or prolonged, or if your child passes bloody diarrhoea. If your child requires medical attention please inform the Doctor that your child has visited our farm and had contact with animals, and let us know about it.

Dietary Requirements

The school will provide us with a list of any children with special dietary requirements. We happily cater for genuine special dietary needs such as allergies or religious requirements but we cannot cater for likes and dislikes. Please ensure all allergies and dietary requirements are understood by the child prior to their visit.

Luggage

The suitcase or bag children bring should weigh no more than 12kg and the child should be able to pick it up and carry it themselves. Wellies should be carried separately in a large carrier or bin liner. Please ensure all luggage is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Wellies

Children must bring proper wellies, with a tall calf section, which provide greater protection and grip. Flat soled children's wellingtons are not permitted on the farms. Your child will be taking their wellies on and off several times a day, so it is helpful if they are one size too big and not tricky to take off.



Slippers

Children must bring clean slippers or slip-on indoor shoes or crocs to wear inside the house.

Trainers

Children must bring a pair of trainers or other flat, comfortable shoes for travelling and playing on the lawns, etc.

Waterproofs / Overalls

Children are not required to bring waterproof jackets and trousers as we provide these at each of our farms for the children. Cotton overalls will be provided in the summer time for comfort.



Clothing

Children should bring sufficient clothing for the full week at the farm. All children need to have long trousers (jeans, tracksuits, leggings etc), short and long-sleeved t-shirts, jumpers, underwear, ankle length or long socks (not trainer socks as these tend to fall off inside wellies), and pyjamas or other sleepwear. Depending on the season, children may want to bring extra layers (vests, etc) for warmth, or shorts which may be worn for non-farm tasks during the summer.

If children wear a Hijab or other required head covering, please bring an indoor and outdoor set.

If you have any questions regarding our health and safety measures on the farm then please contact us on bookings@farmsforcitychildren.org or call our head office on 01392 276 381.