



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING

*Honorary President HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, GCVO, CGCStJ, CD*

Robert Lewis, John MacGregor and Dr Michael James  
Trustees  
The Nineveh Charitable Trust  
Park Farm  
Frittenden Road  
Biddenden  
Ashford TN27 8LG

16<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Robert Lewis, John MacGregor and Dr Michael James,

Last year The Nineveh Charitable Trust gave LEAF a grant of £3,924 to provide exciting on-farm learning experiences for children.

We are pleased to report that a total of 104 children have benefitted from your grant, from three schools, in Kent, Staffordshire and Yorkshire.

44 children from Greatstone Primary School in New Romney, Kent, travelled 15 miles by coach to Silcocks Farm near Tenterden. Silcocks has organic production, and the Year Five pupils learnt about the importance of animal welfare, with the RSPCA five freedoms. They hunted for the most important creatures on the farm – worms - and the different birds that rely on them. Using cream from the small dairy herd, they made butter and tasted cheese. Another highlight was making friendship bracelets from fleeces and exploring the important role of sheep manure in putting organic matter back into the soil on the farm.

The children obviously enjoyed learning about sustainable farming and food production, commenting: “I loved the trip. It was so good to be that close up with the animals”, and “Learning about how things involving meat were done organically was super interesting!”.

One teacher said, “This came just after our two terms of our topic ‘Sow, Grow and Farm’. It was amazing for the children to take what we learnt in theory and see it in practice. The children were very excited about the day – both before the travel and while we were there. The children were able to get an experience through LEAF and Silcocks Farm that they wouldn’t be able to get in other places!”



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30 children from Richard Taylor School, Harrogate travelled to White Quarry Farm Tadcaster. The day was based around sustainability, seasonality and food choices. with 30 year 5 students. The Year Five pupils picked apples from the orchard, made and drank the apple juice, then calculated 'food miles' using the farm gardens as inspiration, and discussed how farmers care for the environment.

They thoroughly enjoyed 'worm charming' - digging an inspection pit in the soil to see their habitat, using a garden fork to flick the soil around, and counting the worms which emerged. There was a tour around the farm to see the wheat, sugar beet and oil seed rape being grown. And finally, they made and tasted 'funky foods' from local produce including the apples and sugar beet.

Beaudesert Park Farm in Rugeley, Staffordshire, hosted a visit for children following an in-school session facilitated by Faye Edwards, our LEAF Education Specialist for the West Midlands. They met cattle, poultry and the farm goat, and talked about their different diets, and identified different grasses in the pasture. Afterwards they worked with Faye to embed their learning and give a presentation to the rest of the school.

Thank you once again for your support to make these events happen.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Puzey".

Jane Puzey  
Adviser