

# Stay Safe on the Farm!

Prior to your visit, please provide us with information which may be important to pupil's health and safety during the visit. This should include:

- **Medical conditions:** especially asthma, hay fever, allergies (particularly bees and eggs) and any other health information which may be relevant.
- **Mobility, hearing or visual impairment:** this information will help us to plan activities that are accessible to children in your group.
- **Relevant special educational needs or behavioural issues:** We aim to provide activities that will engage all pupils. However, there are some activities and areas of the farm which may be unsuitable for students with some severe learning or behavioural needs, if their condition means that they may not be safe.

## BEHAVIOUR:

Teachers, with assistance from any accompanying adults, carry full responsibility for their group's behaviour whilst at the farm. The role of Woodlands Farm staff and volunteers is to lead engaging activities and focus the attention of the group.

We reserve the right to terminate any activities should we feel that the safety or wellbeing of animals, plants, children, staff or volunteers is at threat, or if warnings about poor behaviour are ignored, making it difficult to continue with activities. We also reserve the right to withdraw individual children from activities. Visiting groups are asked to bring enough extra adults to supervise children in this situation.

Please read the information below carefully before visiting:

## General

- Woodlands Farm is open to the general public and groups must behave in a way that is considerate to other visitors.
- Farms can be muddy, smelly places, so pupils should wear appropriate clothes that parents/ guardians don't mind getting a little mucky!
- Keep your pupils together as a class or group, under the control of a designated member of school staff, or other responsible adult, at all times.
- Don't drop litter, as it makes the Farm untidy and may harm animals
- The Farm Yard is open to cars and farm vehicles. Groups should check for moving vehicles when crossing the Farm Yard and take care when stepping out from between parked cars.
- Do not allow children to do anything that could compromise their safety, disrupt the workings of the farm, the wellbeing of animals, or the activities undertaken by the group.

## Livestock

- Farm animals don't usually bite, but take care not to tease or frighten them. This is particularly important for animals with their young. Staff and Volunteers will advise on which animals are safe to touch.

- Some animals will allow you to get close to them and touch them, provided they are approached quietly and gently. Do not let children chase them!
- Do not feed our animals – they follow special diets and it is not good for them to eat too much, or to eat junk food!

### **Equipment**

- Don't allow children to touch farm machinery or to use hand tools such as forks or spades, unless invited to by the Education Team
- Pupils should not climb on, or lean against, walls, cages, or hay bales as these may move or break unexpectedly.

### **Hygiene and Health**

- Children should always wash their hands after touching animals, animal feed, soil, compost or open water. They should not eat during the tour or put fingers near their mouths or eyes. Hand washing facilities are available.
- Cuts or abrasions on the skin should be kept covered.
- Pregnant women, or those who may be pregnant, must not touch or go into enclosures with sheep during their visit, to minimise the risk of toxoplasmosis.
- Children should avoid touching open water (eg pond water) to minimise the risk of contracting leptospirosis (weils disease). If children or adults experience flu like symptoms after their visit, they should make their doctor aware that they have been on a Farm near open water.

### **Risk Assessments**

We undertake regular and systematic risk assessments of the farm site and all learning activities, but it is essential that you carry out your own risk assessments here based on your knowledge of the staff and children visiting. Contact our education staff to arrange a pre-visit.