



# Newsletter

Dear Farm Community,

**As winter blankets our farm with a chill, the warmth of our children's spirits shines through.**

Braving the cold, they've not only weathered the frosty winds but actively engaged in all our seasonal activities, proving their resilience and dedication to the farm and its inhabitants.

We have welcomed some additional learners to the farm and watching the farm grow with more children fills me with warmth as I see the benefits it brings to so many of them. The young people make me so proud with how they welcome new children and make more friendships.

We're thrilled to announce two wonderful additions to our team: Charlie, a qualified maths teacher and outdoor learning enthusiast, and Melody, our new therapeutic support assistant both bringing Special Educational Needs (SEN) experience. Their passion and commitment align seamlessly with our mission, enriching the experiences we offer to our children and how we continue to meet our farm values of 'Exploring, Engaging and Empowering'.

Looking ahead to the Spring term, we're excited to share our plans for the opening of two new learning spaces. A woodwork room and an animal grooming facility will soon be part of our evolving Skills Centre behind the office. Our secondary learners will gain valuable experience in animal grooming qualifications, while the primary groups will have internal activities supervised by our staff.

Additionally, we'll be completing our outdoor learning space and constructing a play area opposite the pond, expanding opportunities for our primary groups to explore and learn. To accommodate these changes, the bus will move to the back of the offices, paving the way for our exciting reptile bus project and enhancing parking in the drop-off and collection area.





We are pleased to also introduce Maxine and Clare as Parent/Community advisors to our board of governance in the next term. Both mums have an array of experience to bring to our strategic model in supporting our young people at the farm. We will be able to share more once we have had our initial intent meetings.

As we embark on these new ventures, I want to express my deepest gratitude to my team. Their incredible kindness, compassion, and support has created a nurturing environment for our children. They are uniquely amazing, and I am blessed to be working with them. I would like to extend a warm and special thank you to our lovely parents and guardians for your integrity, openness, patience, understanding and strength. We know that things can be challenging at times but please rest assured that our team is always here to support, even if it is for a cup of tea and a chat. Kudos to Toby's team for all their continuous back-breaking work that keeps the farm growing (literally) and ensuring ALL our safety on the ground.

As we wrap up this year, I extend warm wishes for a cozy Christmas. I shall be raising a glass to you all and please always remember, my door is always open and so is the office (especially when you need to wait for the children in the car!). Here's to a promising new year filled with growth, learning, and continued support for our extraordinary community.

**With gratitude, respect, and warmth**  
**Ludivine x**



# This term..



Reflecting on this term, there is so much to celebrate and recognise. We are very proud of everyone for their efforts this term.

This half term we have welcomed some more new animals into our loving farm by rehoming them from a local yard and have worked really hard to provide them with all the things they need to settle in. Our primary learners have been excellent yard workers, maintaining very high standards and taking great pride in keeping the space clean for everyone, whilst our secondary learners have provided the nurture and enrichment for them too.

During art this term, our learners focused on the seasonal changes and special events including Remembrance Day and Diwali, creating beautiful wreaths and dreamcatchers. One of the most favoured art & crafts sessions this term involved making tiny bobble hats that everyone enjoyed wearing or putting on the animals, which was great fun! This term it has been lovely to see all of the children and young people work well together and bring important elements of kindness and sharing into the sessions. Art has continued to be a therapeutic approach for us to talk about the learners' emotions and feelings, which is so important for our young people.

During the second half of this term our young people have been extremely productive in the kitchen. Our secondary students have been looking at traditional English dishes as well choosing some of their favourite meals they've cooked over the year. To do this we first discussed different English dishes and their favourite things to eat for example roast gammon, Christmas dinner, lamb chops with mint sauce and chicken wings with blue cheese sauce. This has meant learning new recipes as well as the skills required to make them, including how to safely place meat onto a preheated griddle or pan, the importance of timing when cooking meals like a roast dinner, safe knife skills and use of appropriate colour chopping boards. Whenever cooking meat, our seniors have been enjoying going out to local butchers and farm shops to learn more about where food comes from and keeping our ingredients as local as possible.

Where possible, we have been encouraging our secondary learners to eat the fantastic food their peers have been making this term and enjoying sitting as a group to eat lunch together. This has promoted the self-belief our young chefs have in their cooking abilities as they are regularly praised and thanked by their fellow peers.

Meanwhile our juniors have been continuing to build their independence and understanding of fresh food and its importance to a balanced meal, and how being hungry can affect our mood!



We have been incredibly busy in the garden this term and have done a lot of work in the polytunnel as we have sheltered from the winter weather! Our learners continued to learn about seasonal planting, meaning we have been able to plant winter lettuce, rocket and broad beans, ready for harvesting and enjoying in the new year. We have tried to bring more colour to the garden with winter flowers such as pansies and violas, whilst also preparing sweet peas in the polytunnel to be planted out when the weather is warmer. The allotment has been packed full of even more spring bulbs- it will be bursting with life in a few months! Some of our secondary learners built an awesome (if not slightly terrifying!) scarecrow and we have all enjoyed creating Christmas decorations from natural materials found in the garden. It's been great to see the children's skills and confidence in the garden develop over the last few weeks, particularly evident through their regular use of the gardening terminology that they have learnt. The spring term will be particularly exciting as we will be able to get out into the allotment more- bring it on!

In bushcraft this term our young people have worked hard to chip away at their Bushcraft passports. They've crafted paracord bracelets, tried fire by friction (using a bow drill), whittled hazel butter knives and garden dibbers, crafted three legged stools, and eaten a lot of toasted marshmallows. Wow! I'm exhausted just telling you about it. In addition, some of our Seniors have also worked on personal woodwork projects, creating something for a furry or feathered friend!

**Have a wonderful festive break and we will see you next year!**

**From  
Bobby, Alex, Laura, Felix, Eva, Melody, Vicky and Charles!**



## Any other business..

- Please note that Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January is a **staff inset day** therefore, the first day back for our learners is **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**.
- Next term we anticipate the weather getting colder and wetter, please ensure your child has appropriate clothes and shoes for our outdoor sessions, as well as spare clothes/socks.
- Our topic this term is Habitats and Classifications – we are inviting everyone to get creative at home and make a habitat of your choice whether that be by creating a poster, building with Lego, make a fact file, or anything you can think of. We will display any creations proudly on our display boards.

