

Group Visits for 2012

Church Farm is a Rare Breeds Animal Centre with lots to offer to all ages of children for a fun educational day out. We would like to feel that we can offer you a hassle free school trip which the children and teachers alike will really enjoy. We have a wide variety of farm animals, most of which are classified by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Lots of these are having young throughout the spring and summer.

Our Tea Room serves light lunches, including a children's picnic box at £3.95 per child. If you require this for your group, please ensure that you book in advance.

We have a large secure education room which your group can use, free of charge, for the duration of your visit. (This room is allocated on a first come first served basis, please confirm at the time of booking that it is available) There will be materials to use in the education room, so no need to pack heavy clipboards, colouring pens, pencils etc. Your coats, bags, packed lunches etc can all be left in the room and you can eat your lunch there too. We will welcome you off the bus, take you to the education room and give you an introductory talk. We can also tie in with school projects if you let us know well in advance.

Our knowledgeable and experienced staff will be on hand for questions and informative chats. We can provide each child with an age appropriate educational booklet full of things to do and find out either on the day or when they return to school, please request these at the time of booking.

We have a large play area with activity trails, trampolines, sandpit, straw play area, and ride on tractors. We have a "Treehouse" indoor adventure play area, which we believe gives another dimension to your visit, especially if the weather is wet. Please remember that, as with the rest of the farm, it is vital that the children are properly supervised by your accompanying adults in this area.

We welcome schools groups into the shop which has a plentiful supply of pocket money gifts. We are also happy to make up bags of small souvenirs in advance: if you let us know how much you would like to spend, we will be able to discuss the type of things available. Ice creams and lollies can also be ordered in advance.

Groups can also enjoy a 25 minute tractor trail, to see the animals which are in paddocks around the farm. Or you can go on a Nature Walk with our very knowledgeable and experienced gamekeeper. He can tailor the walk to suit your needs, for example a project on mini beasts, nature or the local environment. There are additional charges for both of these, please ask for details.

We are fully disabled friendly with wheel chair ramps & 2 disabled toilets. There is wheelchair access to most of the farm, although some of the paddocks are only accessible over grass. The trailer used for the tractor ride cannot accommodate a wheelchair at the moment. We welcome everyone at Church Farm and know that you will enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere.

We have carried out a risk assessment which you can request, or download from the internet. The play area has been inspected and passed by ROSPA. We have emergency procedures in place and have complied with Health and Safety regulations.

You are welcome to arrange a free preliminary visit, for members of staff (sorry, this does not include their families) if required: please phone the office on 01366 382162 if you wish to arrange this.

We very much look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

William and Elizabeth Esse

P.S. Please feel free to contact or Wendy Langston or Debbie Benns at the office on 01366 382162 with any queries you may have.