

PRESS RELEASE
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New “kid” on the block!

New Farm Visit Coordinator for national education charity, The Country Trust, organises her first exciting visit for children from Burnwood Community Primary School, Stoke-on-Trent to Hollywood Goat Farm in Stone.

Country Trust Farm Visit Coordinator Corinne Caddy joined education charity The Country Trust at the beginning of 2017 and held her first farm visit for the charity last week. Children from Burnwood Community Primary School, Stoke-on-Trent got to see for themselves the world’s only goat roundhouse at Hollywood Farm near Stone. The building is a special round house structure divided up like segments of an orange and home to the farm’s Boer goats during winter.

Farmers Ruth and Antony Key welcomed the children and their teachers on arrival and introduced them to their herd of very friendly goats and kids. One child asked why all the goats had ear tags, and Ruth and Antony used a hand scanner (rather like one you find in a supermarket) to read the number on the tag. They explained that the number was a bit like a birth certificate and from it the children could see when a goat was born, who its parents were and how many days old it was. Farmer Antony Key said *“Visits like this are such a rewarding experience. I’m always surprised by how little some of the children know about the countryside. This is a great opportunity to share something unique with them, as well as show them what life on a real working farm is like.”*

During the morning the children had a girls versus boys challenge - using wheelbarrows to carry bedding to a pen and gathering food for the hayracks. Some of the children hadn’t handled a wheelbarrow before and said this was the best part of their day. They also got to build square doe and kid pens, accurately measure and weigh the goat’s food and had a go at plaiting pink and orange goat collars which the pupils were allowed to take home.

Every year The Country Trust works with hundreds of volunteer farmers and landowners to teach disadvantaged children from all backgrounds and faiths about food, farming and the working countryside. Corrine, who has considerable experience of working with children and was previously responsible for the educational programme at Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire said, *“When I got home and reflected on the day I realised the children had not only learned about food and farming but also other things such as animal welfare, recycling, mathematics and a few other subjects besides. Most importantly, I came away from my first experience as Farm Visit Coordinator feeling that everyone – the children, the teachers, the host farmers, myself and my fellow co-ordinator, Cathy Evans – had enjoyed a really informative and fun day”.*

If you would like to know more about the work of The Country Trust or become a supporter, please go to www.countrytrust.org.uk

-Ends-

Editors' notes

School: Burnwood Community Primary School, Chell Heath Road, Chell Heath, Stoke On Trent ST6 7LP
Tel: 01782 235577
Class teacher: ?

Hollywood Farm, Uttoxeter Road, Stone, Staffs ST15 8RA
Tel: ?
Famer: Antony and Ruth Key

For more information, please contact Corrine Caddy at ccaddy@countrytrust.org.uk

About The Country Trust

- Founded in 1978, The Country Trust is the leading national educational charity that brings the working countryside alive for those children least able to access it, whether through disadvantage or disability. Every year we support hundreds of volunteer farmers and landowners to welcome thousands of disadvantaged children from all backgrounds and faiths onto their farms.
- The Country Trust has 3 main strands of activities:
 1. Farm Discovery - day visits to real working farms
 2. Countryside Discovery - residential visits to the countryside
 3. Food Discovery - yearlong programmes exploring every aspect of growing, cooking and even selling food
- The Country Trust focuses on working with the following:
 - Primary age children from schools with an above average percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals
 - Schools catering for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
 - Looked After Children and Pupil Referral Units
- In 2015 The Country Trust enabled
 - 17,961 children to go on a farm or estate visit
 - 6,600 children took part in farm led assemblies and food and farming workshops
 - 860 children took part in Food Discovery Programmes
 - 883 children went on 29 Residential visits
 - 415 children with Special Educational Needs took part in Countryside Adventure days in Hampshire.
- The Country Trust currently works with schools in and around London, Essex, East Anglia, Hampshire, Birmingham and the East and West Midlands, Yorkshire, the North West, North Wales and Northumberland.

What we do

- We make it easy and safe for children to visit farms and for farmers to share their knowledge and passion.
- We bring urban and rural communities together, increasing communication, respect and understanding of the countryside as a place of possibilities but also a place on which livelihoods depend.
- We facilitate children's cultural understanding about the life and work of the British countryside through visits and talking with those who live and work there.
- We enable children to experience the wonder of the countryside:- open space, breathing space, the people who live and work there, habitats, farm animals and wildlife.
- We enable children to understand the possibilities of food, what a variety there is, why and how it grows, who grows it and where, what it tastes like, why all this matters.
- We introduce adult role models who nurture and take responsibility for crops and animals. People who often work in strong family units.
- We bring two interdependent but disconnected communities together for a stronger future. Our school community includes many urban children and a significant number of children from ethnic minorities.
- We can help schools to meet the new Ofsted common inspection framework which now includes a judgement on 'personal development, behaviour and welfare'. Ofsted states that the first-hand experiences of learning outside the classroom can help to make subjects more vivid and interesting for pupils and enhance their understanding. It can also contribute significantly to pupils' personal, social and emotional development.

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