

PRESS RELEASE
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NEW GRANT HELPS CHARITY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN IPSWICH SCHOOL

A new grant award by The Postcode Local Trust will help educational charity The Country Trust make a real difference to children at one Suffolk school, taking three school year groups on a journey of Food Discovery.

The Country Trust has already been delivering a highly successful Food Discovery programme to Year 3 pupils at St Christopher's C of E Primary School in Ipswich and this grant will enable all of Key Stage Two – years four, five and six - to benefit from the rich experience as well.

The Food Discovery programme enables children to explore where their food comes from with farm visits at the heart of their learning. Pupils grow their own vegetables and herbs in school and are taught to prepare and cook delicious meals using fresh, healthy ingredients including the produce they've grown. They explore and taste new foods, organise and run their own playground farmers' market learning all about pricing, profit and the art of selling, visit local farms, meet local Food Heroes, and prepare and share a harvest feast with friends and family.

Chief Executive Jill Attenborough said: "Our Food Discovery programme brings opportunity, experience and vital life-skills to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. We know they will grow in food confidence, in self-confidence and in knowledge of the world around them and their place in it. We are very grateful to The Postcode Local Trust and players of the People's Postcode Lottery for helping us make a difference to children's lives which will last a lifetime."

Assistant Headteacher Anita Warren said: "I didn't dare hope, I wanted this for our years 4, 5 and 6 so much. I am beyond excited."

"The project is more than I ever expected. The rest of the school have been really rather jealous so this programme for our older children, especially our Pupil Premium children will be amazing and incredibly enriching for them."

The Food Discovery programme is supported by class visits to local farms where pupils are welcomed by farmers who explain and give them first-hand experience of the journey of British food to their table.

The Country Trust works with over 25,000 children a year, primarily working with schools, educating the most disadvantaged children in Britain. The charity gives them access to the countryside through visits to real working farms, delivering year-long Food Discovery Programmes and offering residential visits. To find out more visit www.countrytrust.org.uk

Postcode Local Trust is a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery. To find out more about grants from the Postcode Local Trust visit www.postcodelocaltrust.org.uk

To find out more about the Postcode Lottery visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk

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Editors' notes

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 2016 The Country Trust enabled
 - 18,079 children to go on a farm or estate visit
 - 6,650 children took part in farm led assemblies and food and farming workshops
 - 1,113 children took part in Food Discovery Programmes
 - 918 children went on 29 Residential visits
 - 361 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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