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## TownTalk » Ipswich

### Local Arla farmer gives school children full dairy experience

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Students from Whitehouse Community Primary School at Rodwell Dairy Farm

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**A local Arla farmer has welcomed children from Whitehouse Community Primary School onto his farm to help them understand where their food comes from.**

Robin Richards, a third generation farmer who owns Rodwell Dairy Farm in Baylham, hosted 29 of the school's year three students as part of educational charity The Country Trust's Food Discovery Programme, an initiative that teaches pupils about growing and cooking their own food in an attempt to bring alive the countryside for those least able to access it.

Robin, who is one of 2,500 farmer owners of UK dairy cooperative Arla, hosted the visit on Thursday (5 July) and introduced the children to Robin's herd of 110 cows. They witnessed milking first hand and even had a go at feeding them, plus spent some time exploring where cows sleep, graze and even what they eat.

To help the children appreciate and explore where their food comes from and gain a real understanding of the value of the countryside, Robin explained the nutritional value of dairy products, and how milk is a great source of vitamins, minerals and protein.

Robin regularly hosts primary and secondary school pupils on his farm in a bid to introduce them to the different aspects of farming and give them a hands on experience of the dairy industry. The visits to Robin's farm - which produces dairy for Arla brands including Cravendale and Anchor Butter, have been such a success that they are now being used as a model for other school visits taking place across the country.

Robin Richards, Arla farmer and owner of Rodwell Dairy Farm, says: 'It was a pleasure to welcome the children from Whitehouse Primary School, and give them the chance to learn about life as a dairy farmer.

'As a passionate farmer-owner of dairy cooperative Arla, it's important to me to show them where our food and drink comes from and the nutritional value of dairy. Arla farmers up and down the country are always more than happy to host school visits so that we can help the younger generation understand where their milk, butter and cheese come from.'

Sally Hetherington-Aherne, Farm Discovery Co-ordinator at Country Trust, says: 'Though Robin's farm is just 15 minutes from Whitehouse Community Primary School, it's worlds away in terms of people's access to an understanding of farming and how their food is produced.'

'Being able to host visits with dairy farmers like Robin really gives these young consumers of the future an awareness of the products they are eating and drinking plus the work that goes into that production. Children attending these visits remember them for years to come.'