

PRESS RELEASE  
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6/7/2016



## Children are in the market for learning about food.

### A year of Food Discovery ends with a busy playground market for children at Ward End Primary School

30 children from Ward End Primary School in Birmingham will be celebrating the end of a year of Food Discovery by organising a hugely popular playground market at their school **on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016**. Over the last year, with the help of national education charity The Country Trust, the children all aged between 9 and 10, have learnt to grow their own vegetables and herbs, taste and explore new foods, cook simple nutritious meals, explore local farms and enjoy a big harvest feast.

The final highlight of their Food Discovery Project, which has been funded by a grant from the Postcode Community Trust, will be to run a playground market, selling fresh fruit and vegetables to other children and their parents. This is always an exciting event, bringing lots of things together which the children have learnt about over the year through visits to local allotments and farms and talking to the gardeners, farmers and growers. The children will also use their skills in arithmetic and multiplication to ensure they sell their produce at the right prices and make a small profit on what they sell.

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year of The Country Trust's ground breaking Food Discovery project which has now run in over 40 urban schools across England, and the 2nd year that Ward End Primary has taken part. The Country Trust's aim is to bring food, farming and the countryside alive for those children least able to access it in a whole year of hands on discovery. Every child takes part in every activity, learning new skills, gaining confidence and experiencing exciting ways of learning outside of the classroom. Local farmers welcome children onto their farms, and local "Food Heroes" visit the schools to share their passion for food and farming.

Sue Rose, Head teacher at Ward End Primary School said *'The children are very excited about the playground market! It brings together the full circle of how we get food. Working with The Country Trust has really helped the school enhance key parts of the curriculum as well as getting the children excited and interested in important life skills such as cooking and preparing tasty meals, and having a greater understanding of the working countryside. Getting parents involved has been very beneficial too.'*

Gill Preston, Food Discovery Co-ordinator said *'It's been fantastic to see how the children's understanding about food has developed over the past year. All the children have learnt something new about the things they have seen and grown and they have been able to share this with their families. Many have gone on to cook recipes at home using ingredients they would not normally use, which is brilliant and are learning first hand where food comes from both through hands on growing and from professional people in the food industry.'*

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](http://www.countrytrust.org.uk)

-Ends-

## Editors' notes

The play ground market will take place:

**Date:** Monday 18 July 2016 **Time:** 2.30pm

Ward End Primary School, Ingleton Road, Ward End, Birmingham B8 2RA

For more information, please contact Sally Hetherington-Aherne on [shetheringtonaherne@countrytrust.org.uk](mailto:shetheringtonaherne@countrytrust.org.uk) or call 07929 342804

## 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, 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.

Chief Executive: Jill Attenborough

Head Office: Moulsham Mill, Parkway, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 7PX

E-Mail: [info@countrytrust.org.uk](mailto:info@countrytrust.org.uk)

Web: [www.countrytrust.org.uk](http://www.countrytrust.org.uk)

President: The Duke Of Westminster KG CB OBE TD CD DL