

Foundation Stage – National Adventure Farm Winter Wonderland

December 2024



As part of the children's 'Sparkle and Shine' topic, looking at different celebrations and festivals, the Reception children embarked on an exciting trip to the Winter Wonderland at the National Forest Adventure Farm. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore a festive environment, engage in sensory experiences, and develop key social, emotional skills and independence skills in an unfamiliar setting. The day was filled with joy, learning, and the chance to demonstrate important values such as respect and resilience.

Activities and Experiences The children participated in a variety of activities throughout the day. Highlights included:

- A magical walk through the Winter Wonderland, where they encountered festive decorations, twinkling lights, and friendly elves.
- Meeting Santa Claus and receiving a special gift, which filled the children with excitement and wonder.
- Engaging in interactive storytimes, games and activities with the Elves and a talking polar bear that encouraged active listening and imagination.
- Visiting and feeding the farm animals, fostering an appreciation for nature and wildlife.

Demonstration of Respect Throughout the trip, the children displayed excellent manners and respect for others. They listened attentively to staff and followed instructions carefully, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone. During interactions with Santa and the elves, they spoke politely and expressed gratitude for their gifts. Additionally, they showed kindness to their peers, taking turns and sharing resources during Elf activities and playtime.

Exhibiting Resilience The trip presented various challenges that the children handled with remarkable resilience. Despite the excitement and new environment, they adapted well to changes in routine and followed guidance from teachers and staff. Some children initially felt hesitant about meeting Santa or exploring unfamiliar spaces, but with encouragement and support, they bravely participated in the activities. Walking around the farm in colder weather also required perseverance, and the children showed great determination to fully enjoy their experience, covering around 4 miles in total!

Conclusion The trip to the Winter Wonderland at the National Forest Adventure Farm was a resounding success. The children not only had a memorable and festive experience but also demonstrated key values such as respect and resilience. Their ability to listen, follow instructions, show gratitude, and adapt to new situations was commendable. This visit provided an enriching learning opportunity and a wonderful way to celebrate the festive season.

On returning to the classroom, the learning and excitement continued with the arrival of our class elves, whom the children voted to name, and lots of letter writing and mark making to the North Pole, courtesy of the Elves Post Box.

