



Foundation Stage – National Adventure Farm Winter Wonderland

December 2023

A festive visit to a local farm at Christmas time. As part of the children's 'Sparkle and Shine' topic, looking at different celebrations and festivals. The children also developed their social, emotional and independence skills with peers, teachers and other adults in an unfamiliar setting.

The children were excited to travel to their first school trip on a double decker bus and enjoyed looking for their houses and pointing out where their friends and families live.

The children carried their lunch bags to the lunchroom where Lily met us. Lily helped us around the farm for the day. She reminded the children there were a few things to remember whilst walking around the farm to keep them safe. The children showed respect by listening carefully and following her instructions throughout the day.

Our first stop was the animal barns where we fed some goats and cows, stroked the guinea pigs and met some reindeer. Some children were like professional animal feeders and others needed a little encouragement but they all made sure animals were well fed and cared for. We also enjoyed a trip around the farm on a very bumpy and cold tractor ride. Despite some initial reluctance, the children learnt that being outside, even in very cold weather, is good for their physical and emotional well-being.

The highlight of our trip was 'The North Pole Adventure' where the children discovered the North Pole and met a talking polar bear who shared some information about the Northern lights and the weather. They then helped the elves in the toy workshop and eventually met the main man himself – Santa. There was great excitement when the children were told that Santa was going to treat them to a toy to take away with them from their trip. We learnt about the festival of Christmas and how it is celebrated. The children were mesmerized by all the lights and decorations at the farm and excitedly pointed out Christmas lights and decorations on the bus journey home.

The children were very patient in waiting until it was our turn to have our lunch and play in the soft play area. The slides were very popular and the children modelled good turn taking skills as well as physical ones.

Upon the return to school, the children were very excited to find two of Santa's elves had returned to the Wrens Nest with them. They are looking forward to enjoying the festive period with the children. The children thought of names for the elves and they were introduced to democracy when it was time to vote for their favourite name. The children showed great enthusiasm in writing letters and messages to the elves using their phonics skills. Several of the parent helpers, along with Lily, commented upon how respectful the children were to each other and the animals, and on how well behaved they were.

