

Tuesday 21st October

Day 2 – Hard Work and New Adventures

Early Morning on the Farm

The Year 6 children woke up bright and early, ready to start another day of life on the farm. After a peaceful night's sleep, there was a real buzz of excitement in the dorms as everyone got dressed in their farm clothes and wellies.

It was a beautiful start to the morning — the mist had lifted, revealing a **stunning sunrise** over the hills and a **dry courtyard** glistening with dew. The calm after yesterday's rain made the farm look fresh and full of promise for the day ahead.



Morning Farm Duties

Before breakfast, the children rolled up their sleeves and got straight to work on their **farm tasks**. Some headed to the pig pens to feed the pigs and check on the animals, while others worked in the **farm garden**, preparing beds with compost and turning the soil ready for planting.

The group worked hard, showing great teamwork and determination. There was plenty of muddy laughter, but also a real sense of pride as they began to understand what it means to contribute to the running of a working farm.

Their efforts were rewarded with a much-welcomed **hearty farmhouse breakfast** — warm toast, creamy porridge, and delicious **homemade pancakes** topped with **blueberries and syrup**. It was the perfect start to fuel their busy day ahead.





A Visit to Will's Farm

After breakfast, the children set off on an exciting adventure to **Will's Farm**, where they learned all about **cattle farming** and the challenges farmers face. Will spoke to the group about the **costs of running a farm** and how cattle can act as “**environmental machines**”, helping to maintain the landscape and support local wildlife — including rare breed butterflies that thrive in well-managed grassland.

To add a bit of fun to the learning, the children (and adults!) took part in a lively **Hay Bale Challenge**. Teams competed not only against each other but also against other visiting Shallowford schools to see who could pull, roll, and stack a hay bale in the fastest time. With great cheering and teamwork, **Mr Hopwood's team claimed victory** with a supersonic time of just **nine minutes**!



A Farming Mishap and a Lesson Learned

After helping Will on the farm, the children realised they had forgotten an important part of the **Countryside Code** — closing the gates behind them! To their surprise, a group of sheep had taken the opportunity to wander off and head back toward Shallowford Farm.

To make things right, the children took on the task of **herding the sheep back** to Will's farm. What started as a challenge quickly turned into a brilliant team effort, with the children working together, calling and guiding the sheep safely home. By the end, they were laughing and proud of how successfully they'd completed their unexpected mission — true young farmers in action!



A Well-Earned Lunch

After their busy morning, the children were more than ready for lunch. They enjoyed a **warm homemade tomato soup**, flaky **cheese and onion pasties**, and a delicious slice of **Victoria sponge cake** for dessert. The farmhouse dining room was filled with chatter and laughter as everyone reflected on their adventures so far.

Afternoon with Stacey – Den Building and Campfires

In the afternoon, the children joined **Stacey** for some exciting outdoor activities. Working in small teams, they built **dens in the woods**, learning how to create sturdy shelters using branches, leaves, and teamwork.

Once their dens were complete, the children practiced **lighting small fires safely** and toasted **marshmallows** over the flames — a sweet treat that brought smiles all around. Stacey and the team were incredibly impressed by the children's **resilience, problem-solving, and teamwork**, even as the weather grew chillier later in the day.





Evening Farm Jobs (and a Muddy Mishap!)

Before dinner, it was time for the evening round of **farm jobs**. The children helped to feed the animals and put them to bed for the night. However, in the slippery **outdoor pig fields**, a few adventurous farmers took an unexpected tumble — **sliding bottoms-first through mud and pig muck!** Luckily, everyone saw the funny side, and laughter echoed across the farm as they cleaned up and compared their muddy boots.





A Cosy Dinner and Storytelling Evening

After cleaning up, the children followed their noses to the farmhouse kitchen, where the smell of dinner was irresistible. The evening meal featured **Shallowford Farm's own sausages**, creamy **mash**, and **roasted vegetables** straight from the garden. For dessert, there was a comforting **apple and raspberry crumble with custard** — a truly delicious way to end the day.

With full tummies and tired smiles, the children gathered for a **storytelling session** with one of Shallowford's wonderful storytellers. The cosy atmosphere and gentle stories had everyone captivated. As eyes began to droop and heads started to nod, the children drifted off to bed — dreaming of open fields, hay bales, and dancing sheep.

