

Monday 20th October

Morning Arrival and Farm Briefing

The children arrived full of excitement at **East Shallowford Farm**, nestled high on the misty moorland of Dartmoor. The morning began with a **welcome briefing from David**, who introduced everyone to life on the farm — explaining its history, the daily routines, and the important role of caring for the land and animals.

Dressed in waterproofs and wellies, the children set out on a **moorland walk** to explore their new surroundings. The Dartmoor weather quickly showed its true character, with light rain sweeping across the hills and a cool wind rolling through the valley. Despite the damp conditions, the children embraced the adventure — splashing through puddles, spotting sheep on the slopes, and taking in the dramatic, open landscape that surrounded the farm. The drizzle only added to the atmosphere, giving them a true taste of life on a working hill farm.



Exploring the Moorland

Kitted out in waterproofs and wellies, the children set off with David for a **moorland walk** to explore their new surroundings. The Dartmoor weather quickly made itself known — a steady drizzle fell as they climbed up through the fields, and the wind whistled across the open hills. Despite the rain, the children embraced the adventure, spotting grazing sheep, admiring the rugged granite tors, and splashing happily through puddles. The misty landscape gave a magical, wild feel to their first day on the farm.



Farm Treasure Hunt

After drying off and a quick pit stop for a drink, it was time for the first challenge of the day — a **farm-themed treasure hunt**. Working in their dorm teams, the children explored the farmyard and surrounding fields, searching for hidden pictures and clues. Each clue linked to an animal or a product that could be found on the farm, encouraging the children to think about how food is produced and the different roles animals play in farming life.

There was plenty of teamwork, laughter, and excitement as the children raced around in their waterproofs, comparing clues and sharing discoveries. Some even got a little muddier than expected — especially those who ventured too close to the pig pen and needed an extra wash down!



Becoming Farmers

As the afternoon rolled on, it was time for the children to take on some **real farm responsibilities**. They learned that farmers must look after their animals and land before thinking about themselves, so before dinner could begin, everyone helped with the daily farm jobs.

Working together, the children **fed the pigs, watered the plants, and checked on the livestock** around the farm. Despite feeling a little tired from the day's adventures, everyone gave it their best effort. There were muddy boots, big smiles, and a strong sense of achievement by the time the final bucket was emptied.



Dorm Life and Responsibilities

Before heading to dinner, the children returned indoors to organise their dorms for the week ahead. Working as a team, they unpacked, made their beds, and helped each other settle in. For some, this was their first time making a bed on their own — but with encouragement from their friends, everyone managed brilliantly.



A Delicious Dinner

After a busy and blustery day, the children were ready for a hearty meal. Dinner was a homemade spaghetti pasta with salad and cheese, followed by a refreshing dessert of fresh fruit and yoghurt. The warm food and cheerful conversation made the farmhouse dining room feel especially cosy after a day spent in the rain.



Surprise Night Walk

Just as the children thought the evening was winding down, David surprised them with an **extra adventure — a night walk across the moor!** Though a little tired, they pulled on their coats and headed out into the cool night air. Together, they climbed up to the top of the local tor, where the rain had cleared to reveal a **sky full of stars.**

From the top, the children could see the faint glow of Plymouth in the distance and took a quiet moment to reflect on their **WW2 topic**, imagining what life might have been like during the Blitz. It was a beautiful, peaceful way to end a wet but wonderful first day.



Settling Down

Back at the farmhouse, the children were still buzzing with excitement as they got ready for bed. The sound of the wind outside and the occasional bleat from the fields reminded them that they were far from city life — and already beginning to experience the rhythm of the farm.