

Do cows drink milk?



Old Macdonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o! Do cows drink milk? What are baby pigs called? It's time to find out more about life on the farm and the animals that live there.

This half term, we'll be visiting a local farm to take in the sights, sounds and smells. We'll observe the different farm animals, crops and vehicles, and maybe even take a ride on a tractor! Back in the classroom, we'll monitor beans as they grow, noting how they change. In our literacy lessons, we'll make predictions about stories and try out some farmyard rhymes. We'll create songs about the farm to sing as we shake our homemade seed shakers in time. In our mathematics lessons, we'll use an animal 'baa chart' to estimate the number of popular farmyard animals, and we'll use addition and subtraction to help Little Bo Beep count her sheep. Outside once more, we'll take it in turns to be sheepdogs, sheep and farmers. Can we herd all of our sheep into the pen? Getting creative, we'll use coloured play dough and clay to create farmyard scenarios, and 'paint' farm animals using graphics software. Then, we'll design and make delicious flavoured breads to sell in our very own farm shop!

At the end of the project, we'll invite you into school to share our best bits. We'll write funny farmyard stories and compile a letter to send to the farm we visited, explaining what we've learned.

| Areas of learning | Early Learning Goals |
|---|---|
| Communication and language | Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking |
| Physical development | Moving and handling; Health and self-care |
| Personal, social and emotional development | Self-confidence and self-awareness; Managing feelings and behaviour; Making relationships |
| Literacy | Reading; Writing |
| Mathematics | Numbers; Shape, space and measures |
| Understanding the world | The world; Technology |
| Expressive arts and design | Exploring and using media and materials; Being imaginative |

Help your child prepare for their project

Farms are fantastic! Why not explore your kitchen cupboards together and talk about where different foods come from? Do you have any local farm produce? You could also visit a local farm or petting zoo and take pictures of each animal to share with the class. Alternatively, take toy tractors, spades and trowels outside to dig together in the mud. Add water to the soil for extra muddiness – don't forget your wellies!