

# Pirbright Nurture Farm



**Pirbright Nurture Farm is based at Pirbright Village Primary School and provides outdoor learning sessions for children of all ages from a wide locality to support their social and emotional well-being.**

## **The Animals**

Pirbright Nurture Farm is home to variety of animals, including pygmy goats, chickens, pigs, ducks, rabbits and guinea pigs. We also have reptiles: Bearded dragons, Rankins dragons, a chameleon and Western Hermann tortoises.



## **How is it accessed?**

We welcome referrals from schools, charities, community groups, family services, local authorities and from parents. To make a referral, to visit, or to find out more, please contact Helen on [farm@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:farm@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk)

Sessions are usually run on a one-to-one basis or with children attending as a pair. Helen runs the Nurture Farm. She is a teacher who currently works at Pirbright Village Primary School and Worplesdon Primary School and has over twenty-five years of experience working with children of all ages both in the classroom and in specialist educational support.



## **The Sessions**

We can organise one-off visits to the Nurture Farm which can provide a very rewarding experience for the children involved; however, we encourage participation in a series of regular sessions which allow for the children to develop familiarity and confidence with the animals and the routines.

Each session is timetabled to last for approximately an hour but we are very flexible and ensure that there is plenty of time between sessions – both to allow for natural over-run

of enthusiastic, engaged children and to ensure that the animals have plenty of 'down-time' as their emotional well-being is also of key importance.



We follow a 'Therapy Farm' ethos rather than a 'Petting Farm' model. When the children attend their sessions, they will spend a significant proportion of time with the animals but will be busy, actively engaged in caring for them: grooming, feeding, cleaning and replacing bedding. They will learn about animal husbandry and develop their skills and knowledge in caring for a variety of animals.

They will also participate in other activities to improve the environment: building bird tables and feeders, bug hotels and bat boxes. They may create enrichment activities and play apparatus to improve the living areas of the animals. We cultivate and grow a variety of plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables both for human consumption and to feed the animals. Children can collect some eggs and even cook an omelette on a camping stove!

This variety of activities allows children to experience success, to be creative and to develop their confidence with in a safe and nurturing environment.



The Nurture Farm is a not-for-profit organisation and all money raised by from the sessions goes back into keeping this valuable resource running. We actively seek financial support from donors and when this becomes available, we can sometimes offer discounted sessions. We will let you know when you contact us whether we have any current additional support.

Each series of sessions is planned to meet the specific needs of each child and for the children to gain the absolute maximum from their time at the Nurture Farm

We occasionally also provide family sessions where the family can work together to carry out lots of jobs around the farm.



### Other Services

As well as providing for the wider community, the children at Pirbright School also benefit from the farm through curriculum enrichment. We also provide important transition sessions for our military children and their families.



### Further Information

For more information about the Pirbright Nurture Farm, please see our website:

<https://www.pirbrightvillageprimaryschool.com/the-pirbright-nurture-farm/>

Or email us: [farm@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:farm@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk) or [hsibley@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:hsibley@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk)



### Prices

Please contact us for information on prices. The cost per session varies dependant on whether it is for an individual child (one-to-one) or for a pair of children. We often encourage paired sessions where two children can work together as these sessions develop collaboration, teamwork and a rewarding, shared experience. We occasionally take slightly larger groups of three or four children, if required, as long as we can successfully provide for the needs of the individuals in the group. The price per session includes preparation, all resources, staffing and a follow-up journal of pictures to evidence the experiences and skills practised. It also contributes towards the running costs of the farm – food, bedding and vet care. The Nurture **Farm is small, welcoming and friendly and participants have exclusive access to the farm during their session.** We do not run sessions for parties or groups.