



27 February 2024

Dear Parents

I am very excited to announce that I have planned for our Year 3 boys to take part in the Farm School Initiative, **with the first session being this half term on Wednesday 27 March** and then continuing each Wednesday through the first half of the summer term.

3B and 3N will visit on Wednesday mornings (9.00 am-11.45 am) with their first visit being **Wednesday 27 March. These classes will return to school for lunch time so normal arrangements apply.**

3F will visit on Wednesday afternoons (12 noon -2.45pm) with their first visit also being **Wednesday 27 March. Please note that this class (3F) will not be on school premises during the school lunch time and so a packed lunch from home will be required for every boy in 3F on Farm School days.**

The following sessions will take place after the Easter holidays on **Wednesdays**- 17 April, 24 April, 1st May, 8 May, **with the final session being the 15 May.**

Farm School takes place on a working farm in St Martin and is owned by Mr Billy Davies (owner of the 'Just William' greengrocers in the central market) and managed by his daughter Grace Crake. The Farm School Initiative is best described by this excerpt from their website:

*'Our 6-week project is unlike other school growing projects on the island, as the farming industry is our focal point. Not only do we look at sustainable ways of growing produce, but we look at how we can farm with the environment in mind and change current attitudes towards the industry.*

*Over the course of 6 weeks, children are able to tend for their own plot of vegetables, learn about the agricultural industry on a working farm, care for farm animals, learn basic animal husbandry and learn through play too!*

Please do take a look at their website **[www.thefarmschoolinitiative.com](http://www.thefarmschoolinitiative.com)** for further details.

By taking part in this project, your son will not only support his learning in science but will benefit from learning outdoors and equip himself with skills, knowledge, and experiences that we could not possibly achieve within the classroom. It will also provide preparation for residential visits where the boys will require the skills of cooperation and teamwork, organisation and responsibility for their own behaviour and belongings. Each week the boys may bring home a bag of vegetables from the farm. In the past these have usually been leeks or leafy greens such as chard, kale, and lettuce. On the final session the boys will harvest their crops to bring home. You might like to share these with family and friends.

Ensuring the safety of our boys on the farm will be paramount. Each group will have a dedicated farm school leader allocated to them and be accompanied by a first aider. **I would appreciate you reminding your son about behaviour expectations**, especially as the coach will drop us at The Royal St Martin's and we will be walking along the road and lanes to the farm, as well as coming into contact with farm animals.

It will be necessary for the boys to be adequately dressed for the sessions as these will take place regardless of the weather. Please find a kit list below - **a waterproof coat, wellies, gardening gloves, sun cream and a sunhat will be essential please and your son should bring these to every Farm School session**. Also, if your son is not used to wearing wellies, could he please spend some time practising putting them on and taking them off.

Each boy will require a **plot marker** to name his personal gardening plot. Instructions regarding this are also attached below. This should be brought into school before the 27 March ready for the first Farm School session.

The cost of transport and Farm School will be met by VCP.

We would also like to offer the opportunity for parents to come along and help. Please email the boys' science teacher Mrs Pateman directly on [w.pateman@vcp.sch.je](mailto:w.pateman@vcp.sch.je) stating whether you would like to help at every session or stating the date / dates available. Please also state whether you could accompany us from / back to school or would prefer to meet us at the farm. It may be that at times we are relying on parental support to have the correct ratios to run the trip so please do only volunteer to come on the coach if you are able to commit.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Pateman directly on the above email address.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Pateman  
Science subject lead



## Farm School Kit List

On the day of your Farm School visits

please arrive at school wearing the following:

- Farm School clothes (long trousers / jeans and a suitable top – these will get dirty)
- Trainers (we will change into Wellingtons at Farm School)
- Waterproof coat

**In the past we have had cold, wet and heatwave weather conditions! Please check the weather forecast and make sure that you are dressed appropriately.**

You must also bring with you:

- Wellington boots in a carrier bag
- Empty bag for carrying vegetables home
- Sun hat
- A full refillable water bottle
- Sunscreen (already applied before school too please)
- A fruit or vegetable snack only please (peel and cores may be fed to the pigs at Farm School)
- Packed lunch
- Waterproof trousers are also a good idea if you have them

**Please place all of these in a named rucksack type bag for easy carrying between the coach and Farm School.**

You will not need your school bag or homework diary on Farm School days.





### Plot marker homework

You will require a plot marker for your vegetable plot at Farm School. Wooden spoons, wooden signs and painted pebbles with a coat of varnish or PVA glue would all work well. Your marker should have **your name** displayed clearly and you may decorate it however you wish. This will be required for your first Farm School session during the last week of this term

(Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March).

