

"We are so grateful for all of the support we have had since we opened Brimham Rocks Adventure Farm, and really appreciate the messages of support we receive every week.

We founded the education centre because we wanted provide opportunities for deprived children, and those whose abilities limit the experiences they can have.

We've been visiting schools and community events for nearly ten years now, and over the time we've met countless children who have never seen a live pig or cow, let alone distinguish between a cow and a goat. A lot of the children we come into contact with do not have English as a first language, and interacting with animals, and learning through play breaks down this fundemental barrier and lets children be themselves, without even realising they are learning new facts and skills every time we go to them, or they come to us.

Richard and I know how fortunate we and our farming community friend, neighbours and colleagues are to be able to live and work in this fabulous county, but we are also acutely aware that not everyone has access to the spaces, sights, and experiences that we do. That was one of the key drivers behind developing our work through Riggmoor Reindeer.

Brimham Rocks Adventure Farm gives us the chance to bring the rural life into kids' lives in a way that is fun, healthy and safe - and educational without many of them realising they are learning and developing skills at the same time. It also gives children who maybe don't have access to space to play the chance to come and let of steam and develop their confidence, their team-building and inter-personal skills in our play barn after learning about the different breeds we have here



- Give all children the opportunity to visit when farm, thev otherwise may not
- Break down barriers language caused by and cultural differences
- Create opportunities for children to leave behind traumatic experiences and 'just be a child' and learn
- Do our bit to educate young people - we don't believe learning only belongs in the classroom and is the responsibility of teachers
- Create opportunities for children to share experiences - whether that's milking a goat, holding a freshly-laid



at Fiddler's Green Farm. We are also still dispelling myths that some kids have that milk comes from a supermarket (rather than a cow or goat), and that eggs are 'made up'.

The outdoor play area was designed as an alternative space to allow children to also learn through play develop skills in the fresh air - something we are always being told is needed to counter-balance the amount of time many spend staring at gadgets.

Running a farm is as rewarding as it is hard work, and adding Brimham Rocks Adventure Farm to our workload has demanded an incredible amount of time to launch and get off the ground. We have an amazing team of staff, an incredible customer base, including a growing number of local education providers who have brought their pupils along to continue their learning journey with us.

We are humbled by the impact we see our work having on the children who visit us - the children cannot even speak English; those who are terrified, coming from unimaginable trauma in their home countries at such delicate ages; children who live in deprived inner city areas and ordinarily do not leave a five-mile radius of their home. When we introduce them to the animals, many of these same kids have a smile and some even try to communicate with their classmates and teachers.

We know that some children in schools we work with don't often talk about family life to teachers, however when the children have the mobile farm in school they will talk about grandparents who are farmers in different countries.

It is a fabulous feeling to be able to teach the children the different parts of the animals because they genuinely have no idea sometimes - sometimes a bird's beak is referred to as a mouth or pecker because in their heads, birds peck so this is what it is called.

It's also heart-breaking to think that all of our hard work, and the support we have had from our bank, our customers, our family, our friends and the farming community may come to nothing because the planning department is of the view that Fiddler's Green Farm - our main business activity - is not a farm - and that we could lose our home and livelihood."

