

A Special Visit from Farmer Marcus – Learning Comes Alive

We were delighted to welcome Farmer Marcus to school for a truly memorable and hands-on learning experience. He arrived with some very special visitors - his ferrets and chickens - which immediately captured the children's interest and excitement.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to enhance our Science curriculum, while also supporting children's understanding of the natural world and animal care.

Learning About Life Cycles

Farmer Marcus spoke to the children about the life cycles of chickens and ferrets, explaining how animals grow and change over time. He used clear, age-appropriate language and real examples to help pupils understand key scientific concepts such as:

- birth and growth
- caring for young animals
- similarities and differences between animal life cycles
- how animals' needs change as they grow

Children listened attentively and asked thoughtful questions, demonstrating curiosity and growing scientific understanding.

Domestic Animals and Working Animals

A key focus of the visit was learning about the difference between domestic animals and working animals. Farmer Marcus explained how:

- chickens are domestic animals that are cared for by people and can provide food such as eggs
- ferrets are working animals and can help farmers with specific jobs on the farm
- animals have different roles depending on their skills and characteristics

This helped children understand how humans and animals work together and linked closely to our learning about animals, habitats, and how people use natural resources responsibly.

Hands-On Experience and Building Confidence

One of the highlights of the visit was the opportunity for children to gently pet the chickens. It was wonderful to see them grow in confidence as they handled the chickens calmly and respectfully.

This experience supported:

- empathy and kindness towards animals
- understanding how to behave safely around living things
- emotional development and confidence building

Children showed excellent behaviour throughout, following instructions carefully and treating the animals with care.

Engagement, Curiosity and Impact

The visit from Farmer Marcus brought learning to life and provided children with a meaningful real-world experience that enriched their classroom learning. Staff observed:

- high levels of engagement and excitement
- excellent listening and questioning skills
- growing confidence around animals
- respectful behaviour and care for living things
- clear links made between what children had learned and what they could see and touch

A Lasting Learning Experience

Farmer Marcus's visit was a wonderful example of how learning can be deepened through real experiences. The children left the session full of enthusiasm, new knowledge, and stories to share -and the visit has already inspired further discussion and learning back in the classroom.

