

Dear Families,

What an incredible couple of weeks in Class 3, with the highlight undoubtedly being our trip to Harewood Estate!

On Wednesday 19th, we were treated to glorious sunshine, and the smiles on the children's faces made the day even brighter. John, who leads Outdoor Education at the Estate, welcomed us onto the farm tractor for a bumpy but exciting ride to our drop-off point. He introduced the theme of the day—exploring the contrast between wildlife and farm animals.

Our first stop was the sheep, where the children had the chance to meet, feed, and even cuddle the friendly sheep. It was a delightful experience, and the joy on their faces was priceless!

Next, we headed to the outdoor education area to search for animal footprints. Working in groups, the children discovered and made plaster cast impressions of the prints they found. While waiting for them to dry, we got creative, making bird feeders using foraged pine cones, lard, and bird seed. These were carefully hung on branches near the bird hide, where we later sat to listen for birds. John helped us identify different calls, including the high-pitched song of the robin, the "teacher, teacher" call of the blue tit, and the melodic thrill of the song thrush.

After a well-earned lunch break, we returned to the hide for a moment of silent birdwatching, hoping to spot birds visiting our feeders. Then came a fun challenge—building a sturdy bird's nest! Using only materials found on the forest floor, the children designed nests that had to withstand strong winds. To test their durability, each nest was placed high up and dropped to the ground with a foam egg inside. A few impressive designs survived the fall intact—well done to our winners!

Before heading back, we collected our animal footprint casts and continued our wildlife vs. farm animals exploration. We had hoped to meet the famous Cyril, the estate's beloved pot-bellied pig, but he was nowhere to be seen—likely basking in the sunshine and enjoying a lazy afternoon!

As the day drew to a close, we climbed aboard the tractor once more, tired but absolutely thrilled by our adventure. A huge thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Holmes for taking the day off to join us, and an even bigger well done to Class 3 for embracing every moment with enthusiasm! Finally, our heartfelt thanks to John and the team at Harewood Estate for making the trip so memorable. What a day to remember!

Do have a look on Tapestry and the school website for a selection of photos from the day.

[Tapestry - Harewood Estate \(1\)](#)

[Tapestry - Harewood Estate \(2\)](#)