

#BackingHerefordshireFarming

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By Charlotte Moreau



A CHARITY supporting vulnerable children is calling for support to continue its work in Herefordshire and beyond

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, charity Jamie's Farm, which has a farm in Herefordshire's Golden Valley, has gone above and beyond to fulfil its charitable mission of supporting vulnerable children and enabling them to thrive by offering groups the opportunity to visit its rural havens, where they are fully immersed in farm life and receive tailored therapeutic support.

Although residential trips have been put on hold due to government restrictions, Jamie's Farm has worked closely with schools to devise a new impactful day-visit programme for the children who have been able to attend, offering fresh air, energising walks, healthy home-grown food and the opportunity to do meaningful, practical work.

The programme has been specifically designed to help children re-engage with school and their peers after the stresses of lockdown and is focused on helping pupils grow their self-confidence and improve their mental wellbeing.

To help them continue their important work, Jamie's Farm is calling for support during the upcoming Big Give Christmas Challenge donation week. Throughout the week of December 1, every donation to Jamie's Farm will be doubled thanks to the Childhood Trust and individual donors who have provided the match funding, in partnership with the Big Give. You can pledge your support to the campaign by clicking here.

The charity has set an ambitious target of raising £50,000 through the campaign which would be doubled to £100,000. This will help bring its programme to 1,500 vulnerable children in the year ahead.

Jamie's Farm has been fortunate to receive some fantastic support from the local community to date, including the Herefordshire Community Foundation, which provided a grant of £4,900 as part of their National Emergency Trust Fund which is



Lambs being fed at Jamie's Farm which is asking for more support as it continues its work aiming to transform children's lives

Farm changing children's lives asks for more help

helping fund a series of day visits over six weeks for 10 young people from Kingstone High School.

Victoria Seymour, pastoral lead for Year 7 at Kingstone High School, said: "Jamie's Farm builds trust and self-confidence in unique and hugely rewarding ways, helping our young people to grow and learn."

"The progress our pupils make during their time at the farm has an immensely positive and measurable effect on their wid-



The farm's founder Jamie Feilden

er school life. Experiencing new challenges in a truly supportive environment makes such a huge difference. Discovering Jamie's Farm really did tick so many boxes for me as a pastoral lead. Every young person needs to experience at least one day on Jamie's Farm."

Founder Jamie Feilden said: "It has been a tremendously difficult year for the children we support, many of whom have faced serious hardships, deprivation, isolation and cramped living conditions.

The negative impact of Covid-19 and two national lockdowns on children's mental health and education has been widely documented and schools have expressed a real need for what our programme offers."

The Hereford Times believes farming is an incredibly important part of county life, which is why the #BackingHerefordshireFarming campaign has been covering the successes and challenges of the industry.