

# Farm visits brighten lives of local children

## Appeal to help 'Big Give Christmas Challenge'

IN response to the coronavirus pandemic, charity Jamie's Farm has gone above and beyond to fulfil its charitable mission of supporting vulnerable children and enabling them to thrive during secondary school and beyond.

Jamie's Farm offers young people and vulnerable groups the opportunity to visit its rural havens, where they are fully immersed in farm life and receive tailored therapeutic support through the charity's unique programme of Farming, Family, Therapy and Legacy.

Although residential trips have been put on hold due to government restrictions, Jamie's Farm has worked closely with schools throughout Monmouthshire and beyond after devising a new impactful day-visit programme for the children who have been able to attend.

During the day visits the young people get plenty of fresh air, energising walks, healthy homegrown food and the opportunity to do meaningful, practical work.

The programme has been specifically designed to help children reengage with school and their peers following the stresses of lockdown.

It is focused on helping pupils grow their self-confidence and im-



Youngsters from Redbrook Primary School enjoyed their day out at Jamie's Farm

prove 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 this week December 1 - 8, 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 at: [www.jamiesfarm.org.uk/big-give-christmas-2021](http://www.jamiesfarm.org.uk/big-give-christmas-2021)

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.

Following their visit to Jamie's Farm in Monmouth, Jess, a teacher at Redbrook C of E Primary School, said:

"The children returned full of the joys of the day.

"A thoroughly fabulous and wholly memorable experience by all accounts!

"A much-needed lift in these trying times. One of the children that

visited told me that it was the 'best school trip ever!' I

" think we can safely say the whole day went down a storm."

Jamie Feilden, CEO and founder of Jamie's Farm, 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.

"We are looking forward to re-starting our full residential trips when possible but, until then, we are pleased that our day-visits are making a clear positive impact on young people's wellbeing, behaviour, confidence and self-esteem.

"We are proud to have strong partnerships with our local schools and it has been a real boost for our staff and teams to know we are making a tangible difference to the lives of so many deserving children.

"There is no better time to support Jamie's Farm than during our Big Give Christmas Challenge where every pound donated will be doubled.

"Every gift, however small, is gratefully received and will go directly to helping the young people who need our support more now than ever before."