

A trip to Mudchute Farm

by Lisa Taylor, Year 8

At the end of last year, we all went on a trip to Mudchute Farm in Pier Street. Before we went, our teacher, Mrs Carter, showed us a brochure and told us that from the farm you can see Canary Wharf. And they've got lots of farm animals.



Did you know?

Mudchute Farm is one of Europe's largest city farms.

We wanted to be farmhands for the day, so we went there, got some information from Denise (she's the schools officer at the farm) about the animals, and then we helped at the farm.

The trip to the farm was funny, too, because it's not very far from our school. We went on the DLR to Mudchute Station, then we just followed the signs and walked past the stables into the main courtyard¹.



Did you know?

From London you can also take the D3 or D6 bus from Canary Wharf and get off at the Pier Tavern.

Denise was very nice. She told us that we mustn't shout because the animals get so nervous. We were nervous, too, and my friends had so many questions. I think we all wanted to do all the jobs at the same time. I really really liked the pig shed, and it was nice to muck them out² because I

like dirty jobs. But the best thing was to see the little pigs. When we got there, it was time for their milk. There were little bottles and we could feed them. We had a really great day at the farm. Of course, it's open all the year round, and you can go there with your family, too. You can even have your birthday party at the farm ... Once I went in August because there was a guided bat walk³. Kenneth Greenway was our guide and showed us the bats – and we really found them with the farm's amazing bat-finding equipment⁴. There is a nice café but you can also bring your own sandwiches. I think it's great to have a farm in the centre of the city. And I definitely want to go there in April, when you can see the lambs at Mudchute – I love lambs, they are so cute, fluffy⁵ and so lovable. Do you know what Farmer Tom told us? "We have a few llamas, too, to give things an international flavour!"

Here are two pictures of animals that I took. What do you think?



What about a trip you went on?
Can you write an article about it, too?

Have you got any nice animal photos you could send in to a competition? Have a competition in class.
Describe your pictures and find the best snapshot.

¹main courtyard [ˈmeɪn ˈkɔːt jɑːd] Haupthof • ²to muck out [mʌk ˈaʊt] ausmisten • ³guided bat walk [ˈgaɪdɪd ˈbæt ˈwɔːk] Fledermaus-(beobachtungs)föhrung • ⁴equipment [ˈɪkwɪpmənt] Ausrüstung • ⁵fluffy [ˈflʌfi] flauschig, kuschelig • ⁶pile [paɪl] Haufen

“Did you enjoy your school trip?
– Yes. We're going again tomorrow.
Why?
– As a search party.”

“A party of schoolchildren from the city went on a trip to the country. One of them found a pile⁶ of empty milk bottles and shouted, 'Look, miss, I've found a cow's nest!'”