



St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School

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Bishop
Otter
Academy
Trust

6th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Loan a Lamb Scheme 18th to 22nd March

We are very excited to announce that during week commencing 18th March we will be looking after a ewe and her twin lambs in special pen on the school field. The sheep will be on loan from Lancing College Farm and the children will get opportunities to visit and feed them. Today, the children met the farmer in a special assembly and asked him some questions. We found out that the mother's name is Maureen and launched a competition for the children to come up with names for the lambs. We will announce the winning names on Monday 18th just before they arrive!

Prior to the sheep's arrival, the children will receive instructions on health and safety when visiting them and we will ensure that they have a reminder before their 'farming' sessions. Years R to 4 will also be taking part in a virtual farm visit organised by Leaf Education on the afternoon of 20th March (Years 5 and 6 will be at a production at Shoreham Academy).

As the children will be allowed to go into the pens with the sheep, we have been asked if they can provide a change of footwear for use during this time. Children must change their shoes after being in the pens for health and safety reasons and will be washing their hands immediately afterwards. Between 18th-22nd March, please ensure that your child has appropriate footwear to change into during their sessions, brought into school in a named plastic bag (welly boots would be ideal).

The sheep will be sited on the school field and have a special shelter which they can use at night. The farming team have assured us that they will be safe from foxes over night as they only attack lambs when they are first born and vulnerable. If you see the sheep when dropping off or collecting children from school, please make sure that you and your children do not go too near or enter the pens as this can only happen with our trained staff team.

Wear Wool Day on Friday 22nd March

Finally, as part of our enriched curriculum during the week, the children will be learning about the importance of both sheep meat and wool to British industry. In order to promote a greater understanding about wool we would like all children to take part in Wear Wool Day on Friday 22nd. Please can your child wear an item made of wool eg jumper, hat, gloves etc alongside their usual school uniform. There is no charge for taking part in this day.

We hope that everyone will enjoy the unique experience of being a shepherd for the week!

Best wishes

Dr Victoria Bishop and Miss Hannah Wing

Deputy Headteachers