



## Magdalen Information for Parents

Visiting Magdalen Farm is an opportunity to learn through real outdoor adventures - while enjoying home cooked organic food and a very high standard of on-site accommodation. Groups choose Magdalen Farm because of our bespoke programmes of activity, qualified teaching staff (including SEN) and the wonderful combination of learning and excitement. Our natural surroundings close to the River Axe and Jurassic Coast also make us a perfect location for field trips.

Activities your child may participate in during their visit include feeding chickens and collecting eggs, team challenges and games, orienteering, investigating rivers and streams, exploring (and getting muddy!) in our woodland, feeding animals, arts and crafts, harvesting vegetables, building shelters, lighting fires and cooking snacks on them. Your child will have the opportunity to run through meadows, learn about farming and maybe sing around a campfire in the evening. We are confident that your child will immensely enjoy their stay at Magdalen, and you can rest assured that your child will be cared for at all times.

### What should your child bring to Magdalen?

At Magdalen your child will spend almost all their time outside, and the days are very long (but lots of fun!). Learning to spend time outdoors comfortably in all weathers is an important part of residential visits at Magdalen.

You will receive a separate kit list with details of what we recommend you bring. To ensure your child is comfortable and to maximise their enjoyment, please supply them with all the items stated on the list. It will not be fair to individuals or the group if an activity has to be cut short because a child was not supplied with correct clothing or footwear.

Please pack your child's suitcase or bag with your child present so they know what is in their bag and which compartments things are in. We often have children who come to the farm not knowing what clothing or equipment is in their case; this makes it much harder for them when getting organised for activities.

On average, each group that visits Magdalen brings over 900 items of clothing and equipment with them. Please label **EVERYTHING** your child brings with them. Only named items can be returned. We would prefer you don't send your child with anything of value, such as mobile phones. Please note there is little or no mobile phone reception at the farm.

### Do you need to supply any bedding?

All bedding will be supplied by Magdalen. If your child suffers from bed wetting, please provide them with disposable night time pull up pants or supply a waterproof mattress cover which will be discreetly added to the bed.

### Does your child need to bring any money?

Your group leader will advise you as to whether your group will be visiting the Magdalen gift shop. We sell Magdalen magnets, keyrings, pencils etc. (usually £3 to £5 is ample).

### **What type of accommodation is available?**

Your group leaders will advise you as to whether the accommodation the group is booked into is The Old Dairy or Magdalen Farmhouse.

The Old Dairy and Magdalen Farmhouse provide secure, comfortable and warm accommodation in dormitory style rooms with shared bathroom facilities. Each group will have sole use of their dormitory area.

Your group leader is responsible for assigning bedrooms before the group arrives.

### **What type of food will be offered?**

The food served at Magdalen is tasty and nutritious and there is always plenty to eat. We use as much food from the farm as possible, otherwise we try to buy organic and local produce. Everyone will be given three meals a day and at least two snacks, and have access to the fruit bowl.

We offer a breakfast which includes cereal, toast, and on set days a choice of two cooked items such as scrambled eggs and beans.

We discourage children from bringing sweets and snacks to Magdalen. As we are a working farm in the countryside, sweets and snacks hidden in bedrooms tend to attract unwanted creatures which may not enhance your child's stay!

### **What do you need to tell Magdalen before a visit?**

Before any group visit we ask the group leaders to provide Magdalen with the following information about each person:

- Name
- Allergies (food and non-food)
- Special dietary requirements
- Menu choices
- Medical Information
- Additional needs
- Disabilities

We are able to adapt our dishes to cater for most dietary requirements; please give as much detail as you can about what these requirements are. For example: 'Gluten Free' doesn't tell us enough. We need to know if this is an allergy, or a mild intolerance – and if it includes barley gluten, or trace gluten in oats, or if it is just wheat.

This information relates to the handling of animal feed, as well as to the food we serve.

Additional information may be required by the group leaders.

All of this will help us to ensure that everyone who visits Magdalen has a safe and enjoyable experience.