



FaceTime a Farmer Case Study



The Farmer

Sandy Booth is Managing Director of The New Forest Fruit Company, a business specialising in asparagus and berries. They grow, pack and distribute fruit to Sainsbury's. Sandy's farm has been a LEAF member farm for many years and after seeing a tweet on social media, he decided to sign up.

The School

Hannah Draper is a Year 1 teacher at Oakgrove School, in Milton Keynes. She was keen to become involved as she wanted to include outdoor environment learning into her curriculum plans.

The Sessions

The first session focused on an introduction to Sandy and his farm, the children enjoyed learning about how the strawberries grow and were able to link this to their current science topic. Hannah stated, "the children loved being able to talk to someone that lived somewhere else in the UK," this then created a learning opportunity for looking at maps and distance in geography. Sandy was, "pleasantly surprised," at the enthusiasm shown by the children and was impressed by their questioning, even asking when he had time to sleep!



The first session took place in the strawberry tunnel, however next time Sandy aims to focus on a different aspect of the farm, for example picking and packing. This experience will give the children a fantastic insight into the 'farm to fork' journey and where their food comes from.

Impact

Both Hannah and Sandy are enthusiastic about the benefits of the FaceTime a Farmer initiative, Hannah commenting on how quick and easy it was to set up. Sandy states, "There is no doubt that it is widening the children's horizons and understanding of where their food comes." He also makes the link to the benefits of children learning from not only teachers but other role models too.



Sainsbury's
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Hannah's class found the first call interesting, fun and enjoyed learning about the strawberries. Hannah believes the project, "has been great for our children to see where their food comes from and in gaining some appreciation of the effort and hard work that goes into food production, it has also helped bring our science learning alive!" Going forward Hannah is looking forward to linking her future calls with Sandy to the wider curriculum.

Further information about this initiative and how your school or farm can become involved can be found at www.leafuk.org/facetimeafarmer

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Thank you to Sandy at New Forest Fruit Company Ltd and Oakgrove School

