

3 June 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

We are writing to share some important news regarding our school farm (Apple Tree Yard). After much careful thought and consideration, we have made the very difficult decision to re-home the animals with immediate effect.

This has not been an easy decision to reach. The farm is a much-loved part of our school community, offering valuable experiences to our learners. However, a number of factors have come together that mean continuing to keep animals on site is no longer sustainable at this time.

Firstly, we are facing significant financial pressures, as are many schools and organisations, and the cost of maintaining the animals' welfare to the high standard they deserve has become increasingly challenging. Alongside this, we have experienced difficulties ensuring consistent and appropriate care for the animals during school holidays, which has placed considerable strain on both staff and resources.

In parallel, we are also planning a re-design of the farm space to create a more accessible and enriching area for all pupils to enjoy. In order to carry out this work safely and effectively, the area needs to be clear and free of animals.

Please be assured that the decision to re-home the animals was not taken lightly. They are being carefully placed in a new home where their needs will be fully met and where they will continue to be loved and well cared for.

We understand that for many of our pupils, staff and families, the animals have played a special role in their time at the school. If you feel your child may need additional support in processing this change, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Kind regards,

The Senior Leadership Team