



**FIELD  
TO SCHOOL**

**CASE STUDY**

## **Boston West Academy School Farmers' Market**

### **Summary of project**

Here at Boston West Academy in Lincolnshire, we decided to organise and run a school farmers' market. The plan was to use money raised at the market, to pay for visits to a local farm. Local food producers were invited to have pitches which cost £10 to hire. These were run alongside stalls run by the schoolchildren. The PTA also ran a tea and coffee stall. The market ran for two hours between 2.30pm and 4.30pm and raised in excess of £1000.

### **Who was involved**

The children took a lead role in organising the project. Alongside the children, teaching staff assisted with the market planning and the production of things to sell on the stalls. Local food producers were invited to sell at the market and parents were invited to purchase produce.

### **Key steps**

The preparations began with visits to our local Farmers' Market in Boston with a small group of enthusiastic Eco-Warriors touting for business amongst the stall holders with their invitations to our market. Letters were sent out informing our parents of the event and how they could be involved. Ideas for things to make and sell on the day flooded in from the children and class teachers decided what would be the focus product for each year group. Our Eco Warriors created a whole range of delightful gifts for several weeks at Eco Club time and produced posters for the event. Invitations were delivered to our local community inviting them to hire a stall and/or to come along on the day. Our School Council were involved in deciding the organisation and promotion of the event. Everyone was busy including several of our parents who helped on the morning as keen volunteers, moving tables, ticketing tombola and raffle prizes, then helping when our producers arrived to find their stall and set up. Staff and children were ready and set up on stalls for the grand opening at 2.30pm.

### **How were the children involved?**

We invited the Marie Curie Cancer Charity in to have a stall as our children had decided that they wanted to make and sell the daffodil planters to raise money for them. There was a real variety at our market, including a successful café managed by children with the help of our TA's and lunch supervisors and a shiny tractor to sit on to have your photo taken!! We wanted to include a craft element as well as a food emphasis to our market as it was near Christmas. The staff worked with the children and produced an array of products to sell. These included: Mince pies, salt dough magnets and key-rings, gingerbread Christmas decorations, placemats and coasters, seed kits, recycled tea light holders, spring daffodil bulb planters, candy cane reindeers and glove puppets. People from our local community and beyond came to see and buy. At the end of the school day, wearing an advertising sandwich board, three of our children, with loud voices, directed the parents collecting children into our market. By 4.30pm we were sold out, tired out but over the moon with the success of our first Farmers' Market.

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### **How was the project linked to food and farming?**

There were a range of stallholders, all from the farming and local food community. Stalls included butchers, bakers and yes, a candle maker!!! As well as goats' cheese, jams and chutney, homemade cakes and pies, fresh veg, eggs, honey and home-craft makers. Our stall holders were varied and all were great with our children who visited them to talk to during the market and to learn about where the food on the stalls came from.

### **How was the project linked to the school curriculum?**

Our staff at Boston West used many elements of the curriculum in the build up to the market. These included: DT/ART- designing, making and creating products to sell and posters for advertising and cookery. Maths - measuring, weighing, costing, percentages, problem solving, counting and number skills. English- reading, writing and so much speaking and listening. PSHE- Teamwork. Science- cookery, changes in materials, and growing plants. Geography- finding out where our producers travelled from.



*"What an amazing journey with the children from start to finish this Farmers' Market has been. The children's enthusiasm for it has been infectious."*

***Emma Schofield (Boston West Academy Teacher)***

*"I loved it all, it was so exciting meeting people, making and selling things. Can we do it again?"*

***Boston West Academy Pupil***

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