



What to expect at Herd Thyme, Activities & Safety Information

For Parent/Carer on arrival at Herd Thyme

1. Please be aware Herd Thyme is part of a working farm and therefore has large machinery in operation throughout the day.
 - 1.1. Please park at the designated area for drop off and collection and wait at the gate for a member of staff to greet you.
On **NO** account leave your **Referred Individual (RI)** unattended.
 - 1.2. Should you wish to remain on site during your child/adult's session a member of staff will direct you to a suitable parking space.

Protective Attire

1. Please wear hard soled, fully enclosed footwear and socks to protect feet, and long trousers to protect legs while working around and interacting with horses.
 - 1.1. In order to ride horses comfortably please wear loose or stretchy trousers i.e. tracksuit bottoms or leggings.
2. We aim to be outside as much as possible. It is advisable to bring waterproof clothing and footwear if possible. We do keep a range of suitable waterproof clothing available onsite.

Activities

Activities at Herd Thyme include:

Bareback Horse Riding	Ground Archery
Woodworking	Gardening
Obstacle Course	Yoga
Horse/Goat Cart	Arts & Crafts
Bush Crafts	Pond Dipping & Stream Paddling
Fire making	Cookery

If you have concerns about any of these activities, please let us know.

Illness or Injury

It is of vital importance Herd Thyme is informed of any illness, injury or change in circumstance that may affect a child's ability to engage with the animals or activities on the farm. This is an on-going process and it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to contact Herd Thyme with all relevant details.

Absence

If an **RI** is unable to attend a session please notify Kara on 07920 583327 as soon as possible. If we provide transport can you please contact both the driver and Kara to cancel. If Kara cannot be contacted you can contact Becky on 07887 374538 or email hardthyme@gmail.com.

Transport Arrangements

If Herd Thyme is providing transport, please make sure you have completed the correct Transport Permission Forms.

You will be given the name and number of the driver but in the event of absence for whatever reason, please let Kara know and we will inform the driver ourselves.

Lunch

If your Referred Individual will be at Herd Thyme over Lunch time (from 12:15pm) please make sure they come with a healthy and nutritious packed lunch and a bottle of water. Students build up quite an appetite at the farm so please pack more than enough. We would ask you to avoid fizzy drinks and no sweets or chocolate please.

Social Media

Whilst we have a no mobile phone policy on the farm there will still be moments where students may swap details. While we actively support healthy relationships between students on site we do not encourage the exchange of personal details e.g contact numbers. Exchanges must be made outside of the provision.

If contact details are exchanged between students it is strictly the responsibility of the student's caregiver to monitor/safeguard if required. It is not the responsibility of Herd Thyme to manage behaviours away from the Provision.

Contact Details

Our preferred form of contact is through our email herdthyme@gmail.com.

If the matter is of a more urgent nature you can call or message Kara on 07920 583327 or Becky on 07887 374538.

Please keep all communication through these channels in compliance with our Safeguarding procedures.

For any finance enquiries you can contact herdthymefinance@gmail.com

We are always looking at ways of improving our service so feedback is always appreciated.

As always, thank you for your on-going support and help in these matters and we look forward to a bright and productive next term.

Please Read on for some more detailed information about working with horses.

The Nature & Physical Character of the Horses

It is important to understand that their survival instincts are what have allowed the horses to survive from prehistoric times to present day.

The following information has been collated for your safety.

Please do not be alarmed when you read this, it is only intended to give useful information.

1. I am advised that horses have minds of their own, as do all animals both domestic and wild. The horse can sense and respond to how I am feeling.
2. I am advised that when a horse is frightened, angry, under stress or feels threatened it is the horse's instinct to move forward or sideways to run away from danger towards safety.
1. I am advised that if a horse feels threatened from behind (usually when unable to move freely) the horse may kick.
2. I am advised that a human must always approach a horse calmly and quietly, preferably to the horse's shoulder or lower neck.
3. I am advised that loud and/or sudden unexpected movements near a horse can provoke them to react according to natural protective instincts as described above.
4. I am advised that the first signs of the horse communicating that he/she is uncomfortable is a sudden tensing of the muscles of the body, possibly laying the ears flat back against the head and quickly tossing or raising the head.
I understand that the facilitator will manage the situation if required.
5. I am advised that a horse can see independently with each eye actually looking in one direction with one eye and another direction with the other eye. The horse can also focus both eyes on one object somewhere in front of him/her. Typically the direction in which the ear is pointing will tell the observer where the eye is looking on the same side and what the horse is listening to.
6. I am advised that a horse has two blind areas around which he/she cannot see. Those areas are directly behind the horse and directly in front. When a horse has his/her head lowered to the ground, the spot directly at the end of the nostrils is a blind area. This is the reason it is best to approach a horse from the side and never to surprise a horse from the rear or to reach first for the horse's mouth/muzzle area.
7. Because of the position of the horse's eyes it is hard for them to see our feet when we stand close to them, I am advised to be aware of this.