



JoJoe Crow visits local farms with pupils from Nettlestone Primary School

On 28th September I (JoJoe Crow) invited Nettlestone's Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy to visit some local suppliers that are providing produce for their school meals. First stop, Medina Foodservice, where they got to see the biggest freezers in Hampshire. Medina Foodservice showed us where they store all the products they sell, including ones we use in our school lunches!

"How much do you sell each week?", was a great question which stumped our guide, who had to go and ask someone to do some calculating. The answer? 101 tonnes of food is shipped per week, which is as heavy as a blue whale.

The next stop was John Knox potatoes, who had some of the biggest potatoes any of us had ever seen! Plenty of questions from the children helped us discover that John Knox sends out thousands of tonnes of potatoes a week, some of which make it into our kitchens as jackets and chips!

Our final stop of the day was the Tomato Stall, who supply the tomatoes for our salad bars. "I didn't know there were so many different colours", a comment which all the children agreed with. A tour of the glasshouses, filled with bees, helped us all understand more about how tomatoes are grown.

Overall, the children loved the day and learned lots about local farmers and how we get some of our fresh food. I was in my element back on the farms and our development chef, Jamie, got to see exactly where our ingredients come from and is now busy planning our spring menu.

