

**B Whiteley Farmshop &
Nursery's Newsletter January
2010**

Happy New Year and we hope that all Christmas dinners went to plan and that you all had a great time.

We have now returned from our annual break feeling well chilled out in more ways than one!

Normal opening hours have resumed Wed-Sun 10am-4pm with the earlier start on Saturdays at 9.30am

Christmas Tips

Thanks go to all of you who gave us presents and tips at Christmas, your generosity means that we raised £31.50 which we have donated to Cystic Fibrosis. Hopefully a cure will be found soon.

Freezing Conditions

The bad weather has led to problems getting the veg out of the ground. We cannot cut

certain things while there is frost in them as when they defrost they turn into mush, cauliflowers are one of the things so until they defrost naturally in the field we cannot cut them. When they do defrost (hopefully) they should be ok as will the lettuce leaf and rocket. The Kale is also suffering and we cannot even see where the parsnips are! This is why, when the weather is as bad as this for such a prolonged length of time that veg prices increase due to a shortage in supply and the logistics of getting them from the farm to the wholesale market. Rest assured that our own produce (that we can harvest) will not be increasing in price through this period.

Mistyeyed Meg

Just before Christmas I was playing with Meg and threw a toy for her, unfortunately she set off at a run just as I let go and it hit her in the eye. Blood was seeping out of the corner and the cornea looked damaged so we rushed up to the vets.

Although the cornea was damaged with the help of the antibiotic eye drops it has been healing well and hopefully she should regain most of her vision in the eye one the cornea has fully healed. I felt ever so guilty and she has been very spoiled since.

Shooting Stars

Both Meg and Orion have been having a fabulous time as the snow has meant that we have been busy shooting the pigeons that have been feasting on the crops. Woodpigeon tastes all the better when you know that it is one less diner in the field! The dogs come back covered in paw snowballs but with a definite grin on their faces.



New Season Seeds

We will be getting our new stock of vegetable seeds in shortly along with some flowers for this season. We will also have a selection of seed potatoes and red and white onion sets. If you have any specific seeds that you would like us to stock then please get in touch by Monday 18 January at the latest and we will see what we can do.

Now is the time

Now is the time to be clearing out the old stuff in the greenhouse to get ready for the forthcoming year. We have treated our tunnels with an organic sulphur treatment to kill off any bad fungi spores and cleared out all the old pots and any other debris left over from last year. This should ensure that we have a healthy crop of plants over the forthcoming season.

New Beginnings

Our first sowings of the year will be made by the end of the

month the propagators will be turned on and we will be sowing tomatoes, parsley and spring cabbage. I always like to see our first seedlings poking their heads up through the compost. There is something strangely satisfying seeing the circle starting over again. Just can't wait 'til we are harvesting them all!

No recipes sent in this month. Please share with us your favourite meals and send in a recipe for next months newsletter.

Hope to see you all in the near future, take care in the snow!

Vicky, Bryn and The Team!