*Richard and his wife Sophie adopted two children James, now eight, and Lottie, now six, through PACT in November 2011, and have attended the last three Family Fun Days at Bucklebury Farm.

Richard said it was always a fantastic day out for his family as well as a rare chance to meet and chat with other adopters and their families.

He said: “What is great for us is telling our children that all the other children there are adopted. They are the only adopted children in their school and they sometimes think they are the only ones ever to be adopted. It’s great for them to see that there are lots of other adopted children.

Richard said both children loved the activities on offer at the Family Fun Day, particularly the tractor rides and seeing the deer close up.

“They really enjoyed having the deer coming up to the trailer and being able to feed them. They both also loved going round to see all the animals. A real highlight was the feeding time with the baby animals and getting to hold them.”

He said Lottie had loved the experience so much she did a sharing presentation to her class in school about the farm, and proudly showed off photos of the deer to her class mates. James also really enjoyed the slides, go karts and the bouncing mat activities.

Richard said the event was also a lovely opportunity for him and Sophie to mix with other adopters and hear their stories in a relaxed setting.

“It’s also really good for us to be able to speak to other adopters and see other families in a similar position.”

He added: “Events like these Family Fun Days are really important. In your day to day life you’re usually only in contact with people raising their birth children so to see and speak to other adopters and see so many happy adopted children and families can give you a great feeling.”

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What other families said:

“We loved the Fun Day. It came at just the right time for us and hearing other adopters’ stories was just brilliant. We came away feeling a whole lot better after being in the thick of it for two and half months.”

“It was an absolutely wonderful day which we enjoyed so much. It was just a fantastic opportunity to mix with other adopters and I know in particular our older son loved the idea of playing with other adopted children.

“Having the space to have fun, relax and not be conscious of our every move and conversation in a safe and protective environment is priceless.”

“We thoroughly enjoyed it. It was such a wonderful chance to meet other adopters and their families, as well as catch up with PACT staff.”