

We truly hope you have an enjoyable first ride at Belle Ferme! Here are some handy hints to help you prepare for your first ride.

What to wear:

- Long trousers - durable but not too stiff. Jeans are ok if they are not too stiff.
- Shoes with a small heel - we have a limited number of boots that can be used but your exact size may not be available.
- Riding hat - these are mandatory. We have hats that can be used for the lesson but encourage riders to buy their own as soon as possible
- Back protectors - only mandatory for cross country but recommended for jumping. There are a very small number available for use.
- Warm clothes and gloves in winter

Before the lesson:

- Arrive 20 minutes before your lesson to prepare your equipment and locate your horse/pony
- Depending on your level, normally you will be asked to prepare your horse/pony with the help of our instructors. However for your first ride the horse/pony will be prepared for you.
- Preparing the horse/pony includes brushing, picking out feet, putting on boots and tacking up (putting on the saddle and bridle).
- If you are unsure how to do any of these things, don't hesitate to ask one of our staff who are always around and happy to help.

After the lesson:

- Take the pony/horse back to where they were tied up or their stall, untack them (take off the bridle and saddle), brush them and check their feet again for any stones
- Depending on the other lessons the pony/horse has, you may be asked to take them to the field after your lesson.
- Riders are asked to pick up any droppings in the arena after the lessons using the wheelbarrow and forks next to the arenas