

**Tipperary Pony Club Trip to  
Ballydoyle Racing Stables  
on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

The Pony Club trip to Ballydoyle Racing Stables on the 4th of January 2010 can be described as being a great success. Firstly, I would like to thank some people as this trip would not have been possible without the kind permission of Mr. And Mrs. O'Brien, and of course our DC's for organising the trip and the bus driver for taking us to Ballydoyle.

Around 30 people met up in Rosegreen. This is where we all got on a mini bus and headed off to Ballydoyle. Upon entering the gates we were kindly greeted by Ann-Marie, who then began the tour. We first went up by all of the gallops and then everyone got off the bus to go in and see the Horse spa. There was even a swimming pool for the horses. When we all got back on the bus we drove along by more gallops and then along an old runway which was previously used for the transporting of horses abroad. We then went up to see the yearlings and then more gallops and the reservoirs and of course we saw all of the ponies too!!....we also came across many isolation units on our travels.

The whole area lies in about 700 acres with most of that in gallops. There were lots of stable yards and the new main yard was fantastic. Each horse had its own security camera and their own tack room. After coming back to the start we all got off the bus and went inside to the canteen where we were greeted by the man himself "Mr Aidan O'Brien". The adults were treated to mulled wine and the children had other refreshments with a wonderful display of cakes, buns, sausage rolls and mince pies.

What made everyone's day was the fact that they got a Ballydoyle Racing Baseball hat to take home. After we finished stuffing our faces, we went to the old main yard to see the 3 year olds with Brendan. The horses then came out for their walk with their leaders to the paddock and everyone watched closely picking out their future winners.

Overall the trip was a great success and we wish Ann-Marie and Aidan all the best for 2010.

Emma Maher