

Pets in our Classroom



We are delighted that we are able to develop the curriculum further and extend the children's learning and knowledge through having our own pets across the Year 3/4 classes. The pets we have carefully chosen are two very friendly, female mice. After a lot of research, the reason for the choice, is due to their gentle nature and playful behaviour, making them perfect classroom pets. They enjoy being handled and they also constantly clean themselves and keep their living area clean too.

Dear Parent,

Pets are a great way for pupils to learn responsibility, caring and sharing - they enrich the classroom experience and studies show that: even children with no exposure to animals or nature in their home environment can see, feel, touch and make connections to the wide world of animals; observing and caring for an animal instills a sense of responsibility and respect for life; a pet brings increased sensitivity and awareness of the feelings and needs of others—both animals and humans; pupils learn that all living things need more than just food and water for survival and they will see directly how their behaviour and actions affect others.

They will spend one term in each of the Year 3/4 classes where each of the children will be charged with caring for them along with a member of staff. A rota will be provided for each class so the children will be in charge of checking it and ensuring they follow their duties to help teach them about responsibility and thinking for themselves.

Pupils will be taught exactly how to care for and hold our pets over several days to ensure both the children and the mice are happy and relaxed around one another. The children will often want to hold and care for these animals and we encourage them to do so, as long as parents are comfortable with this arrangement.

We are also planning to let the children extend their responsibilities through caring for the mice over a weekend. We will send clear guidance home on how to care for them, feed and handle them, if you wish to do so. They will be your responsibility over this time period and we require you to collect them from the classroom on the Friday you take them home and return them on the Monday morning. If there are any dates you are unable to care for them, please make a note of these on the form and this will help us with arranging the home rota which will be sent to you with plenty of time before your turn is due.

Lastly, as you would expect, if a pupil fails to respect either of the mice at any point, they will not be allowed to care for or handle the pets for the remainder of the term. However, they will have been shown very clearly how to do this properly so we are confident this won't be an issue as we know how caring our pupils are.

By giving permission, you are allowing your child to hold and care for our pet mice, which includes cleaning them under adult supervision. Only pupils with this form signed and returned will be permitted to care for or handle the animals at school.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Yours sincerely,
Mrs Cope

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Please return your completed slip to the class teacher as soon as possible

Pets in the Classroom

Pupil Name: _____ Class: _____

I give my child permission to hold and care for the pet mice under adult supervision. I understand that this includes helping to clean their cage.

Parent Name: _____ Signature: _____

Are you willing to care for the mice over a weekend and follow the guidance we send home on how to care for them?

Please circle one: **Yes / No** If yes, are there any weekends in September and October you are unable to look after our pets?
