

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 pet across the Year 3/4 classes. The pet we have carefully chosen is a very friendly, female mouse. After a lot of research, the reason for the choice, is due to their gentle nature and playful behaviour, making them a perfect classroom pet. She enjoys being handled and she constantly cleans herself and keeps her 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.

The mouse will spend one term in each of the Year 3/4 classes where each of the children will be charged with caring for her 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 pet over several days to ensure both the children and the mouse are happy and relaxed around one another. The children will often want to hold and care for the mouse 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 mouse over a weekend. We will send clear guidance home on how to care for her, feed and handle her, if you wish to do so. She will be your responsibility over this time period and we require you to collect her from the classroom on the Friday you take her home and return her on the Monday morning. If there are any dates you are unable to care for her, please make a note of these on the slip below 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 the mouse at any point, they will not be allowed to care for or handle her 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 mouse, which includes cleaning her under adult supervision. Only pupils with this form signed and returned will be permitted to care for or handle the mouse at school.

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



Yours sincerely,
Mrs Parker

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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 mouse under adult supervision. I understand that this includes helping to clean the cage.

Parent Name: _____ Signature: _____

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

Please circle one: **Yes / No** If yes, are there any dates between Friday 18th January and Tuesday 23rd April 2019 that you are unable to look after our pet?
