



Wombwell Park Street Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs G Foster-Wilson

Headteacher: Mrs C Lawson

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Longden

Thursday 7th November 2019

RE: Park Street Pets

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware from discussions with your child and the PLT homework sent out, we are hoping to have a variety of different animals within school. These will be situated on the corridor so that all children will be able to access them. The decision to keep animals in school is one that Mrs Lawson and I have been discussing for the past couple of years as there are many studies that show the huge potential and impact that animals in school can have on children whilst they are in education.

Here are just a few of the benefits that this opportunity will have on the children at Park Street:

- Classroom animals are wonderful resources for teachers to make learning fun in all subjects!
- Animals can be used to enhance the curriculum and join cross curricular links.
- Observing and caring for an animal instils a sense of responsibility and respect for life.
- Pets bring increased sensitivity and awareness of the feelings and needs of others—both animals and humans.
- Kids learn that all living things need more than just food and water for survival.
- Students will see directly how their behaviour and actions affect others.
- Studies show that the presence of animals tends to lessen tension in the classroom.
- A study also showed that kids turn to their pets for emotional well-being, with 40% of children choosing pet companionship when feeling down. Kids were also found to seek out their pets when feeling tired, upset, scared or lonely.
- Helping to take care of a pet gives a child a sense of pride and accomplishment, especially if the animal is able to return the affection.
- Kids can even develop strong human animal bonds with non-responsive animals such as fish or turtles. These relationships help to strengthen a child's social skills, giving them the potential to do better in a school setting.
- Children begin to develop an understanding of animal rights, how to take care of animals and also how to correctly treat animals.

What's the plan?

Our plan is to try and have at least 11 different animals that will be kept in a location that all children can see. Each class will take on the overall responsibility for the care of one animal. I will take the overall lead of the project but this is really about the children. The children will have the opportunities to care for the animals and share experiences with the rest of the school. The relevant risk assessments have been carried out for all of the animals that we plan to keep within school. Once we have managed to get a hold of the animals that we would like to keep (I have already begun to start this process), and the area is set up, I will host an open session after school so that parents can come in to see what we have put in place and ask any questions. In the meantime, if you do have any burning questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to your ongoing support in this amazing opportunity for Park Street.

Kind Regards,

Mr A Fidment
SENCo

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