



Farnborough Primary School

Farnborough Hill
Farnborough, Orpington BR6 7EQ
t 01689 853295 e admin.office@farnborough.bromley.sch.uk
www.farnborough.bromley.sch.uk

Executive Head: Miss A James BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Friday 18 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Pets – Guinea Pigs

During last year you will remember school council and eco council spent a long time raising money for their projects. They raised a fantastic £582. We cannot thank you enough for your help and support with this. This has enabled us to action the school pet project.

Jacket and Potato

We are really excited to confirm that after October half term the school pets will arrive. We will be taking on 2 guinea pigs, Jacket and Potato. Once the guinea pigs have settled into school life the children will be able to visit them during the school day as well as some of our older children taking on the responsibility for feeding and helping to keep their enclosure clean. We will be setting up a timetable so the children know exactly when they will have time with the guinea pigs.



Benefits of School Pets

There are many benefits to keeping a school pet. Research shows that pets can help to build children's empathy, responsibility and life skills. Having animals to care for ties in with the school curriculum of emotional and social needs developing empathy, care, love, compassion, understanding, commitment and building confidence. Pets can encourage a child's learning needs, especially in reading, communication, observation and speaking. This is a useful tool when teaching all children. Visiting and spending time with a pet can be both calming and rewarding for the children. For many children, it will be their only contact with a pet as they don't have them at home.

Fundraising

The School and Eco Council did a fantastic job during the Summer Term raising money for the school pets but to ensure we are able to care for them effectively we will be continuing to hold fundraising activities, through tuckshop by selling hot chocolate and squash as a Friday treat, as well as fundraising stall at the Christmas Fair. We really appreciate you supporting us with this.



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Safety

A google form will be on its way out to you for you to give consent for your child to handle the guinea pigs and to inform us of any allergies etc. We will also be looking for families who may be able to support us in caring for the guinea pigs during school holidays and weekends. Although initially, this will be done by staff it would be lovely if there were some families who would be keen to help too.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Cheeseman
Deputy Head



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