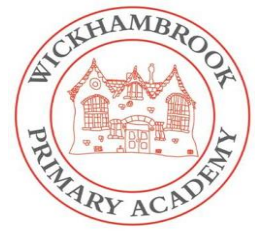


Pets at Wickhambrook School



Helping to support our school values:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Commitment
- Resilience
- Achievement

Wicky and Brooks... the Wickhambrook School Guinea Pigs



Wicky & Brooks are our school guinea pigs.

What are the benefits of school Guinea Pigs?

- Guinea pigs are gentle and social creatures. Bringing these animals into our school family gives the children invaluable lessons as they have fun caring for them and working as a team
- Enriches classroom experiences
- Helps the emotional and mental growth of students
- Teaches responsibility, respect and commitment.
- The Guinea Pigs will rotate around the school and spend a week in each class with Guinea Pig Guardians who will lead their care.

Otto... the Wickhambrook School Dog



Outlined below is some information about having a school dog.

What are the benefits of a school dog?

- A calming effect on pupils, particularly those with behavioural or learning difficulties
- Encouraging expression and participation in more withdrawn children
- Fostering a sense of responsibility
- Improved behaviour, attendance and concentration, reduced stress and improved self-esteem
- Motivating pupils to think and to learn, as most children have a high level of natural interest in, enthusiasm for, and enjoyment of animals
- Encouraging respect and thereby improving pupils' relationships with each other, parents and teachers
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life
- Helping work undertaken with the most vulnerable children, and educational improvements with lower achievers
- Helping children build confidence in reading
 - <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/feb/28/dogs-listen-to-children-reading>

How has the school planned for this?

- A school pet policy, including full risk assessments, have been written and approved by Governors.
- Consent is sought for each child to have direct contact with Otto and the guinea pigs
- All contact with children will be carefully planned and children will not be left unsupervised with the pets.
- When not working, Otto will be based in one of the school offices.
- The guinea pigs have Guinea Pig Guardians who will lead their care and each class will have responsibility for them on a weekly basis.
- Please note that in line with our insurance no other dogs are allowed on site unless they are dogs for assistance. This will be with effect from Monday 17th May 2021.

What about allergies?

- Otto is a Labrador
- All areas of the school are vacuumed and surfaces are wiped down daily
- Movement around the school will be carefully controlled
- Any child working with Otto or the Guinea Pigs will wash/sanitise their hands before returning to class
- Management of allergies or anxieties in connection with Otto or the guinea pigs is part of their risk assessments.

The Kennel Club and School Dogs

www.thekennelclub.org.uk/our-resources/bark-and-read/bark-and-read-why See what The Kennel Club of GB think about the advantages of having a dog in school and the positive effect it can have on children's literacy.

Risk Assessment & Pet Policy

A pet policy and detailed risk assessments are available through the Wickhambrook Primary Academy website or in paper format on request from the office.
