



Leen Mills Lane, Hucknall
Nottinghamshire, NG15 8BZ
Headteacher: Mrs Tammie McNamara

Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

Loved, Valued, Challenged



e: office@holycross.notts.sch.uk
t: 0115 953 4577
www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com

23rd March 2023

Pets in School/Pet Allergy Information

Pet therapy is widely accepted as benefitting children's well-being and communication skills. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding. Pets are increasingly being used in schools with great success and some of you may have seen in the media that they are now being used in some hospitals as the emotional health benefits they bring are so vast.

We now have two guinea pigs in school, Kevin and Ginger. These will grow up in the school environment becoming fully accustomed to the routines of the day and supportive of children within the school.

The benefits of having school guinea pigs include:

- calming effect on pupils
- improved behaviour and concentration, reduced stress, and improved self-esteem
- encouraging expression, participation, and confidence for all children
- fostering a sense of responsibility
- 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
- helping children build confidence in reading
- improving attendance

The guinea pigs will be thoroughly checked for any illnesses and Mr Pascoe will be responsible for its vaccination programme with all records kept as part of the school pet risk assessments.

The School Pets Policy is available on the school website and there is also a full risk assessment, which will be reviewed regularly. It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent/carer who does not wish their child to interact with the guinea pigs or whom have children that are allergic to guinea pigs then please complete and return the slip below. Permission for your child to have some contact with the school guinea pigs will be presumed if no form or written communication is received. We hope the children will gain a great deal of enjoyment from having school rabbits and that they become an established part of life at Holy Cross.

Kind regards

Mrs Tammie McNamara
Headteacher



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Child's name _____

Class _____

- I DO NOT wish my child to have any interventions with the guinea pigs in school.
- My child has an allergy to pets/pet hair (name of animal _____)

Signed Parent/Carer _____

Date: _____

Only return to school if you do not wish your child to have any contact with our school guinea pigs.