

6th September 2024

Dear all families,

Over the summer, a group of our parents spent lots of time renovating our chicken coop with the idea of reintroducing animals to school for the children to support. The group are called PAWS which stands for Protecting Animals With Schools. We are so grateful for their hard work and so optimistic about what this could offer our children going forwards. Please see below an email from PAWS and we will send more information about which children, when and what they might need very soon!

"The outdoor areas at school are a real blessing for our children; providing them with opportunities to learn, play and explore in a safe and stimulating environment.

We are over the moon to now be adding PAWS into our school curriculum. PAWS is a company dedicated to providing animal care and teaching children the importance of looking after British wildlife, and how starting at home and in school will instil respect, tolerance and compassion for all creatures great and small. We endeavour to promote a greater understanding of the importance of our native wildlife and the positive impact this has on children's health and mental wellbeing.

PAWS will be led by a team of mums, Deanna, Hannah and Courtney, who have worked hard over summer to transform our old chicken coop into a new and safe outdoor experience for our children. Alongside looking after our new animals they will be taking small groups for outdoor sessions to our chicken coop to help out with some of the jobs around chicken care. The children will be taking part in super learning days where they will expand their knowledge about British wildlife (and animals in general); from tiny ants and woodlice, to birds and foxes, and everything in between!

And for some really exciting news... in addition to our new chickens we will also be welcoming 4 little paws to our school! Fizzle is Deanna's rottweiler puppy who is now 7 months old. Many of you will have already met her at the school gate, she is the adorable puppy who loves being fussed! Fizzle is diligently training to become a therapy dog at our school. Bringing joy and comfort to children, promoting emotional well-being, and reducing stress levels among the students, as well as bringing some fun and cuddles to our sessions." Deanna

We will be launching PAWS in school during an assembly next week and we hope the children will be very excited! We will ensure any children with fears, worries, allergies, etc. are safe and comfortable with this and there will be no expectation placed on any child. However, the super learning days throughout the year will ensure our children access a unique and valuable learning experience and personal development opportunity.

We are all thrilled and very grateful to PAWS!

With many thanks,

Craig Wheatley
Headteacher

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*We celebrate all successes in our happy, inclusive and aspirational school.
"I came that they may have life and life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)*