

Our class Guinea pigs

Sugar and Spice

We are extremely excited to share our news with you. If you have not already heard we have class Guinea pigs. Meet our two little girls, Sugar and Spice. The children named them and I think you will agree they are fantastic names.



Why Guinea pigs:

Guinea pigs are gentle and social creatures, so they're ideal for children. Bringing these animals into your classroom will help your children learn invaluable lessons, and they'll have fun caring for their new pets together working as a team.

Guinea pigs generally enjoy being around people, they recognise and respond to their caretakers, squealing with excitement when they see them. Guinea pigs are as interactive and social as dogs and cats, and they can form strong bonds with humans

With adult support and close supervision, the children are responsible for weekly cage cleaning and changing the food, water and bedding. Please note the children who are unsure or do not want to interact with the Guinea pigs are given the opportunity to observe them in their own way.



Our class Guinea pigs Sugar and Spice



Educational and individual/personal benefits of having Guinea pigs as class pets:

Animals in schools have been proven to have many positive impacts on children, such as teaching responsibility, emotional development and building self esteem.

Being responsible for looking after Sugar and Spice links to one of our Knowledge and Understanding of the World Curriculum targets of:

To learn how to treat living things with respect and kindness.

Our responsibilities:

In line with the Animal Welfare Act 2006, it's a legal obligation to ensure animals needs are met by any staff members who are responsible for the animal on the school premises.

The 5 welfare needs of animals are:

- Health
- Behaviour
- Companionship
- Diet
- Environment



Sugar and Spice have a large hutch which is located in our garden area, they have space to hide and play. We also have a temporary playpen which will be upgraded soon. This allows us to observe and interact with Sugar and Spice safely and calmly. Eventually the girls will have a large run and once they are settled in their environment Sugar and Spice will be given the opportunity to play and interact with the children in the Jungle room (a safe space free from objects which could be hazardous to Guinea pigs.)

Any donations would be greatly appreciated, for example:

Toys, equipment, fresh or dry food, good quality hay etc

If you would like to spend some time with Sugar and Spice during the holidays please let us know. Their cage, food and any other necessities will be provided.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Gem or any other member of the Macaws class staff.

g.yabsley@ashgate.manchester.sch.uk

Alternatively, you can call the school on:

0161 359 5322