



This week we have been busy preparing for the arrival of Maggie. The children have been super excited to meet her. We have started practising for our Christmas Performance; they have been trying really hard to remember their lines.

### Maggie

We are very excited to welcome Maggie, the rabbit.

Maggie will have an outside hutch and an inside cage as well as a run to spend time out on the grass area. Eventually, when Maggie is settled and trained and the children are responsible we hope to allow Maggie to roam freely inside as the children are playing and completing activity time.

### **Why do we have class pet?**

There is a wealth of research which identifies the benefits of children socialising with animals, such as:

- Pets have been shown to help children develop social skills, social responsibility and help self-esteem.
- A pet can be used to help discuss complex and sensitive issues.
- Regular contact with animals has been shown to help children concentrate, show more cooperation and help make them calmer.
- Studies have shown that children with pets may be healthier and are absent from school less than those without a pet.
- Pets can help engage pupils and form the basis of projects, such as a maths and literacy.

### **Hygiene and safety**

The hygiene and safety aspects for the rabbit and for the children is very important to us. The school will complete a risk assessment for looking after our pets and what to do in case of an injury. This will include the following points:

Pupils and adults wash their hands thoroughly before and after handling or cleaning out the pet. Gloves will be worn at all times.

All animals can bite, peck or scratch when handled, it is important that pupils are taught to handle the pet gently to avoid stressing the pet.

The cage/pen/hutch of the pet must be kept clean at all times.

Make sure that the animal is secure and cannot escape.

### **Reading**

We are really impressed with the reading that is going on at home.

Please ensure that your child's book comes in on the designated day. If you are not sure when book change is for your child, please check the front cover of your child's reading diary.

Have a great weekend!!!