

# MESSAGE FROM SIMON BALLE ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL



Our ambition is to launch Simon Balle All-through school mini farm. Animals have an incredible ability to teach children (and indeed adults) so much. There are countless examples where the impact of animals has been clear, particularly working with children at times of need or vulnerability. At Simon Balle, having the farm as part of our community could reinforce and bring alive much of our values teaching and learning - responsibility, compassion, patience, kindness.

We would be asking for family support with rotas for looking after the animals at weekends, bank holidays and holidays (in all weathers!) but we hope that this would be possible and welcomed by the community. Staff will, of course, help too and again, I am indebted a number of staff members who have offered expertise in the planning so far.

We thank you in anticipation of your support!

It would be a farm for the all-through, positioned on the rectangle of grass by Reception and Year 1. Integrating its use through the curriculum would be easy - Early Years across areas, primary science, and learning for life. More than this, the daily life of the farm, together with the vegetable allotment area (being re-ignited now!), will provide students with leadership opportunities and another area of the school to which they belong.

Our practical plans include the following:

Initially, we would like to welcome four rabbits, four guinea pigs, a tortoise (or two), and six hens.

We will create a specially designed and safe fenced area, with double gates and enclosures.

Some areas will begin empty where the farm could expand or where we could even welcome visiting animals.

Finances have been carefully planned to include hutches and homes, food and bedding, vaccinations, storage and accessories needed (for example, gloves, brooms etc). We have links with local businesses who are prepared to help.

I am already indebted to a number of parents who have specialist skills in this area who have helped the planning so far! Any other parents with expertise to offer, please be in touch!

Risk assessments are in the process of being written. Hertfordshire County Council are very helpful here and risk assessments will be developed overall for the farm, and for any individual children who may need this.





CREATING TOMORROW'S CITIZENS TODAY



## SIMON BALLE ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL MINI FARM

is raising £4,500.00 through a crowdfunding campaign.

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