

OVERVIEW

Aim High, Work Hard, Dream BIG!



ANIMAL THERAPY & CARE

At [The Parkland Federation](#), we believe that there are many benefits to the work done by our wonderful Pet Therapists. These include, but are not limited to, **Physical benefits** - Interaction with Therapy Animals has been shown to reduce blood pressure, provide physical stimulation and assist with pain management. **Social benefits** - A Therapy Animal promotes greater self-esteem and focused interaction with other children and teachers. **Cognitive benefits** - It has been empirically proven that Therapy Animals stimulate memory and problem-solving skills. **Emotional and mental health benefits** - A recent national survey of children's mental health found that recognised anxiety disorders are increasing. A Therapy Animal can lift mood and can also offer unconditional friendship to children.



At Parkland, we have a wide variety of animals to support the children develop self esteem and confidence. The animals we care for also allow us to teach the children the skills needed to look after animals and care for them properly. The work we do is led by Mrs Taylor, our Animal Coordinator, and a team of staff that are passionate about the many benefits animals can bring to children and visa versa. We always take advice and support from the RSPCA as well as our local vet and ensure the animals we care for thrive alongside the pupils at Parkland. We are exceptionally grateful to our wonderful team of staff who look after the animals at weekends and during the school holidays too!



OUR ANIMALS

Throughout The Parkland Federation, we have a variety of creatures great and small, feathered, furry and scaly - so our pupils can find the perfect Pet Therapy companion to suit them.



We currently have two llamas, Indian Runner ducks, Welsh Harlequin ducks, a Bantam, Polish and Silkie chickens, Orpington Cross chickens and white rescue chickens. We also have a variety of small Tetra fish, some Stick Insects and our own beehive.

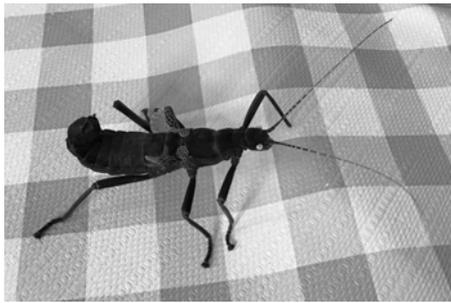
Each year, we incubate and candle eggs laid in school so that the children can marvel at the developing embryos and care for the young hatchlings.

Pupils collect and use our school eggs in cooking and baking.

OUR ANIMALS

The majority of our feathered friends were hatched at The Parkland Federation. Pupils were able to watch the hatching of many of our birds and have been an integral part of their upbringing and well being. Pupils have an active role in the ongoing care of all our animals, developing a love of nature and respect for living things. We also aim to inspire future vets, farmers, beekeepers and zoologists!





The welfare, well being and safety of our pupils and all of our animals and insects is our top priority. We have a dedicated team of staff that care for the animals throughout the year, throughout all school holidays and at the weekends - even on Christmas Day!



SOME OF OUR ANIMAL BIOGRAPHIES

Captain America

This little chap hatched in the Rainbow Room on 1st June 2019. He is an Indian Runner duck and his favourite food is peas. He has a yellow beak with lots of white on his neck. He hatched first and so shares a name with Marvel's first Avenger.





This is **Cheeky**, and she is a cross breed Bantam chicken. She lives with Barbara the Cockerel and he likes to share his cheese with her. Her favourite thing to do is eat. D.O.B 23.05.19



This is **Barbara**. Don't be fooled by the name! He is a fully grown Pekin Bantam Rooster. His favourite food is cheese and he likes a rather nice strong cheddar to nibble on. D.O.B. 26.06.19



This is **Goose** (even though he is a duck!). He is an Indian Runner and he looks just like Maverick, but with a little more white on his neck and back. He really loves an Iceberg lettuce to munch on. D.O.B 02.06.19



These are our **Black Beauty Stick Insects**. They live in the Rainbow Room and like nothing more than to munch on their favourite bushes throughout the day.



This is **Ace**. She hatched the day after Captain America. She is an Indian Runner Duck. She is Captain's best friend and enjoys laying large eggs and swimming.

D.O.B 02.06.19



This is **Wayne**. He looks very similar to Captain America, but he has less white on his neck. He is also an Indian Runner. He likes to chase Captain America around the pond in his spare time.

D.O.B 02.06.19



This is **Maverick**. He is an Indian Runner Duck. His favourite foods are frozen peas and watermelon.

D.O.B 02.06.19



As well as hatching our own ducks and chickens, we adopt ex commercial birds to give them a better quality of life. This supports us to teach the children about animal welfare and the importance of treating living things with care and respect, a key aspect of our curriculum.



Our Parkland Llamas

On 21st May 2021, Parkland welcomed two additions to their Animal Therapy Team. **Star and Luna** are female llamas and have a stable and paddock which was constructed by our very skillful site manager, Mr Anderson. They also have daily access to our school field for grazing. Our Animal Therapy Team spent seven months working with specialists, including the British Llama Society, to ensure everything was just right for their arrival and they provide an incredible amount of support to pupils. They are quiet, curious and intelligent animals and staff have received trekking training from our inhouse experts, Mrs Taylor and Miss Hollobone. We are so lucky to have a team who are so passionate about animal welfare and work together to ensure they are all very well cared for at all times.



Beekeeping at The Parkland Federation

On 17th July 2023, Parkland welcomed a colony of honeybees. They have their own hive and apiary situated in a secluded area that is surrounded by a high hedge and a lockable gate. We were very lucky to secure funding for our hive, bees and also the specialist training that has been undertaken by four members of staff. We have also invested in beekeeper suits for staff and pupils. It took over a year of research and work with the British Beekeeper Association, as well as our local Beekeeper Association, to ensure we had everything we needed. We have developed a special Bee Curriculum that sits alongside the work we do in science as well as our work as a certified Eco School.

Did you know:

- ★ Bees have been on planet Earth for 100 million years.
- ★ Bees and plants have a special relationship. Bees pollinate plants, which helps to grow fruit, coffee and nuts among many other things we eat and drink.
- ★ One teaspoon of honey is the lifetime work of 12 honey bees!



HONESTY

ASPIRATION

RESILIENCE

POSITIVITY

COOPERATION

