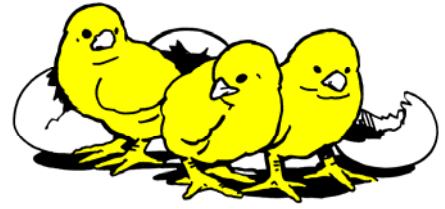


Please show to all families prior to receiving chickens



Thinking about some chicks?

Poultry keeping is an enjoyable and productive hobby for adults and children alike, and you have no doubt enjoyed watching the Living Eggs hatch and grow over the last two weeks. If you are thinking of keeping some of the chicks there are considerations to be made and we ask you to think carefully before rushing into ownership.

Our most important concern is the welfare of the animals as we are sure it is to you too. The chicks look very cute and fluffy at this stage but you must not let this influence your decision. The chicks will continue to grow at an amazing rate and in 4 weeks they will no longer be fluffy but will already look like small hens. During this stage they will continue to need an additional heat source if they are to be kept outside in a shed or garage (you will not want to keep them in your house as they will start to smell and make a lot more mess). They will need protection from predators now and for the rest of their life. This means you must consider purchasing a house and run specifically for chickens. Proper chick crumbs and laying mix along with fresh vegetables such as carrots, swede, broccoli, greens (all raw) will also need to be provided. We always advise locking their sleeping area at night.

Never use straw or hay in their house, as it will quickly cause mite infestation and a costly vet visit. Shavings or a horse type bedding, available in plastic bales is best. Chickens drink large amounts of water and this must be fresh every day.

Please consider the following points carefully

- **Some Councils do not allow chickens, or have minimum requirements for housing them.**
- **These chickens may not have been sexed and some may be cockerels. Many Councils do not allow cockerels in back gardens. Do you have a responsible means of placing any unwanted cockerels?**
- **Will your neighbours object to chickens in your garden?**
- **Do you have someone to look after them if you go away?**

We are unable to take them back if you change your mind

If you can satisfy all the above requirements then you will be rewarded with happy clucking hens and lots of fresh brown eggs.

(Ask your teacher for a copy of the "Home Rearing" instructions)

