



5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Fish Keeper Fry**

We are going to be taking part in a programme called Fish Keeper Fry which is a programme designed for year 3 children to learn the responsibility of keeping a pet and learn about the life cycle of a fish. This will tie in wonderfully with our science topic next half term on the life cycles of animals. The programme is run by Maidenhead Aquatics and their supporting partners, Fluval. The 8-week programme will start on the 16<sup>th</sup> January and become part of our science lessons.

As part of the programme, we would like to share with Maidenhead Aquatics a range of work and photos of your child's class working on the programme so that we can share these on our and our supporter, Fluval's website and social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

Please note we will only share images where full parental consent for photography has been obtained from you so you can be sure that only content that you are happy to be shared publicly on our website and social channels will be shared.

**Please let us know by the 13<sup>th</sup> January if you would like to opt out of having your child's photo shared.**

Maidenhead Aquatics provide all schools selected to take part each year, with all the equipment and learning resources they need to set up their own aquarium in their classroom, including a range of fish which they will learn all about - supported by their teacher. There is no cost to the school or the children taking part and the benefits of the programme are many including:

- Visual learning - Children can see how their efforts in tasks carried out affect the aquarium and its inhabitants.
- All aspects of science can be taught from the mini eco-system; from water chemistry to how fish eat and the nitrogen cycle
- Other key learnings can be filtered in around the subject, such as language, geography and history
- Valuable lessons in being responsible and caring for animals

- Teamwork - Working with classmates to ensure the aquarium is looked after and tasks are carried out
- Encourages children to look beyond their everyday life on land, use their imagination and consider the underwater world evolving in their classroom
- Aquariums have been proven to provide a calming atmosphere for people and studies have found that there is a loss of tension when fish are present in the classroom.

Each week, teachers are asked to select a Fish Keeper of the Week as the child in their class who has embraced core tasks and associated work in the class in learning about and caring for their aquarium and fish.

As part of the programme, Maidenhead Aquatics has shared the lesson plans and videos for parents to follow along so you can see what our Fry classes are working on each week here:

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/fishkeeper-fry-lessons>

You can also check out Fish Keeper Fry's social media channels to keep up to date with what this year's children have been up to. They'll be posting our Fish Keepers of the Week along with photos and pictures of our classes' aquariums and associated work.

<https://www.facebook.com/FishkeeperFry/>

[https://www.instagram.com/fishkeeper\\_fry/](https://www.instagram.com/fishkeeper_fry/)

Towards the end of the programme, Maidenhead Aquatics will also have some fantastic offers on the equipment that was used in the programme for parents of children who took part to purchase at very special prices, so that you can set up your own aquarium at home should you wish and carry on the learning in the comfort of your own home.

We are very much looking forward to having new fish mates in class.

Kind regards,

Miss Stewart, Mrs Pilborough and Mrs Billane