

Fur-st Day of School

Some schools have a very special helper... with four paws and a waggy tail! The National School Dog Alliance is running a competition to find the UK's School Dog of the Year 2025. Many schools across the country have dogs who visit or live at school, to help children feel calm and happy. There are different types of school dog. Some only visit for a short time. They might come with a charity or a special helper. Other dogs live at the school all year, because they belong to a teacher or



Pictured: A dog studying the 'bones' of maths.
Source: Canva.

staff member. Studies show that having dogs in school can help children feel better. They can also help if someone feels nervous or upset. Some children even read stories to their school dog, to help build their confidence.

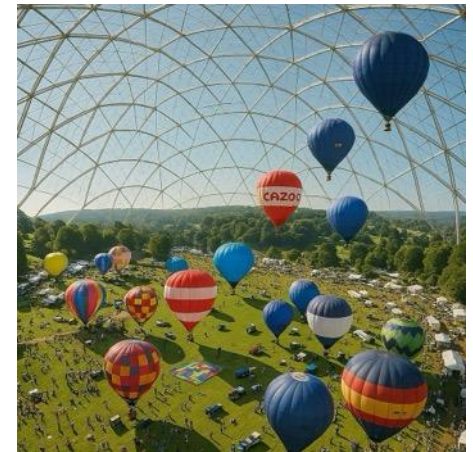
Do you have a dog or another animal at your school? What do they do? Are they funny, helpful, or just very cuddly?



Pictured: A dog getting ready for his 'fur-st' day of school. **Source:** Canva.

Balloons Over Bristol

Some lucky schools in Bristol might get a very special visitor, a hot air balloon! The Schools Tether Roadshow is giving schools in the Bristol area the chance to host a balloon right in their playground. The balloon won't fly away but will be safely tied to the ground, so children can see it up close. It's part of the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta, the biggest balloon festival in Europe! Every August, hundreds of hot air balloons float over the city, and many people come to watch. Now, children can learn all about how hot air balloons work, meet real balloon



Pictured: Hot air balloons flying in the sky!
Source: Bristol International Balloon Fiesta on Facebook.

pilots, and find out about the science and teamwork behind flying. 'We can't wait to inspire the balloonists and engineers of the future,' said Ben Hardy, the fiesta's executive director. He also said the roadshow aims to capture the imagination of children, teachers and parents alike. **Would you like to take a ride in a hot air balloon?**

Whose job is it to keep our local places clean and tidy?



I think that it should be everyone's responsibility because it will help our environment so we won't be breathing in toxins ... if we don't clean up our mess then animals could get stuck or birds might eat glass and we don't want that. **Minnie**

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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Windows of Opportunity

Teachers and staff have confirmed that adding 70 windows to a school in Illinois, USA, has improved students' wellbeing and performance. Funding from glass cleaner producer, Windex, through their 'Windows of Opportunity' programme, has enabled Eisenhower Elementary to introduce much more natural light to their classrooms. Some schools built in the 1970s were made without many windows on purpose, because it was believed that this would reduce distractions and help students focus better and learn more! Many people, including staff, at Eisenhower Elementary School now believe the opposite



Pictured: Teacher and pupils in a classroom with large windows. **Source:** Canva.

to be true. School psychologist, Amanda Howell, explained how things at school have improved, 'What we have been finding is that it really has increased their moods. In general, we see much more positive attitudes. Absence rate also is decreasing.' Principal at the school, Tim Chipman, said, 'To look up, look out, see a tree, a cloud, snow falling, gives them the inspiration they need to keep learning.'

Are you surprised by these findings?

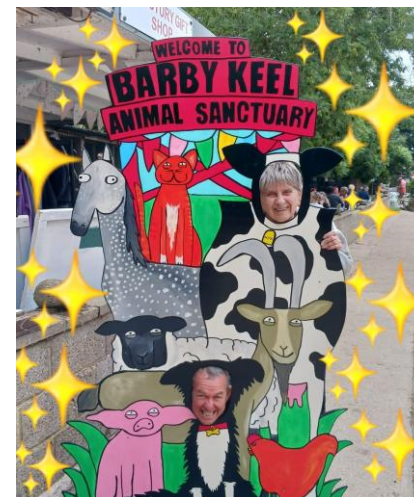
Do you prefer natural or artificial light?



Pictured: Before and after pictures of Eisenhower Elementary School. **Source:** Windows of Opportunity / Windex on YouTube.

No Slowing at Ninety

90-year-old, Barby Keel, has helped over 10,000 animals at her animal sanctuary in Sussex, UK. She opened the Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary in 1979, and is still working hard today – with no plans to slow down or retire! She began with just three animals - two dogs and a bushbaby. Barby explained how her charity grew, 'Before long I had about 40 cats, and started taking in farm animals like sheep, cows, pigs, and goats.' There are now more than 600 rescued creatures being cared for, including 160 cats, 16 pigs, 8 dogs, 6 horses, 100 chickens and 80 rabbits. Barby has 14 volunteers to help her run the sanctuary. Some of the animals are re-homed, but the majority live out their days on Barby's 12-acre plot. It isn't always easy as she goes on to explain, 'I'm always told that I don't seem like



Pictured: Barby Keel at her animal sanctuary. **Source:** Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary (Registered Charity No. 1095382) on Facebook.

I'm 90 years old. Hard work and a breakfast of beans every morning keeps me going. Some days I am shattered, it's hard work. But then I get a little nose 'boop' or a face peers up at me, and I remember why I'm doing this. I don't have plans to stop any day soon. My animals come first and always will.'

Have you ever visited an animal sanctuary? How can we help animals that don't have a loving home?

Whose job is it to keep our local places clean and tidy?



Everyone because people should be helpful and pick up litter but the bin people also need to help since that is their job.

Joshua

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