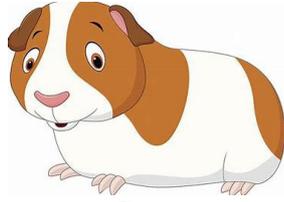


Welcome back to the Animal Nursery. I hope you enjoy the tale today.



Ruaridh



Gwen



Daisy



Scott



Rebecca



Mabel



Bertie



Simon



Tomasz



Felicity



Martin



Dana



Henry



Sofija

The Tale of Togetherness

As Mrs Hippo and Mrs Bear walked towards the big gate which was the entrance to the school at early drop off time they could see Dana jumping up and down excitedly. They both smiled as today was something they had both been looking forward to. Since Christmas, most of the animals had needed to stay at home but today was everyone's first day back. "Good morning, everyone! Welcome back to nursery! We have missed you very much!" said Mrs Bear while Mrs Hippo was busy getting lots of high fives from Martin and hearing about all his banana pancakes that he made and eaten on pancake day.

Mabel was squeaking very quietly and hiding behind her mummy, Mrs Bear noticed this, and went over to chat to Mabel, telling her that they were going to have oatcakes and Mabel's favourite cheese for snack. Mabel smiled when she heard this news. "I can now name all the shapes in the world because I'm five now!" said Felicity proudly. Scott heard this and was keen to tell Mrs Hippo that he could now count to 20. "Oh, that is wonderful news Felicity and Scott. You are both successful learners!" said Mrs Hippo. "What is a successful learner?", asked Mabel curiously. "It is a term we use in everyone's learning story, the folder that is all about you. The words mean that you like to learn. In fact, you are a successful learner, Mabel, as you didn't know what those words meant and asked me about them. When you ask questions you are learning about something you don't know. Mabel was very pleased and responded by squeaking loudly. Martin who had been listening said "am I a successful learner too because I like to learn everything about bananas?" Everyone smiled as they had missed Martin talking about his favourite thing in the world, bananas.

Walking down to nursery the animals heard some birds singing in the trees "I think the birds are happy to see everyone back at nursery", said Felicity. Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo definitely agreed. Once back in the nursery the animals hung up their outdoor clothes and washed their paws. The animals could then choose where they wanted to play. Scott, Mabel and Dana wanted to draw and noticed different shapes of paper were available to choose from. Scott chose a big rectangular shape as he wanted to draw a long necked dinosaur. Mabel chose a triangular shape and made lots of wavy swirls using red and purple pens while Dana chose a square shape and drew a pirate ship with herself as pirate Dana. Felicity said she was a bit hungry and had her favourite cereal, cheerios declaring her favourite shape was a circle and that's why she liked cheerios so much.

Soon the other animals arrived at nursery and there was a lovely swell of sound with everyone catching up with their friends. A few of the animals were a little bit shy at first but after a few minutes of re-adjusting to the nursery environment, everyone was fine. Soon everyone was engrossed in play. Tomasz was painting an alien robot with silver and red paint. Gwen, Sofija and Rebecca were all pretending to be doctors listening to everyone's heart using the toy stethoscopes. Dana was playing tunes using the keyboard while Daisy was playing the drum.

Bertie asked if he could go outside and stretch out his wings. Mrs Hippo said "of course" as she knew how much Bertie loved to fly. Scott opted for outside too and wanted to play

with a racquet and a ball as he was learning to play tennis. Felicity, Mabel and Henry also opted to play outside where, using the large wooden bricks they made a "bus" which took them on journeys to Aldi to get cheese for Mabel, muesli for Henry and Felicity wanted more bubble bath. Then they went on journeys to the swimming pool, the library and even "mountain Everest".

Soon everyone was outside exploring their favourite parts of the garden. Daisy loved all the loose parts and made a wonderful obstacle course for her friends to try out. It involves lots of jumping and balancing. It was very popular and even Mrs Hippo and Mrs Bear tried it out. Everyone cheered when someone got to the end of the course. Martin and Ruaridh made a rocket using the crates and the cable drums. "I'm making a rocket to go to Mars. I want to be an astronaut one day", said Ruaridh while Martin said he wanted to fix things when he was older and be an engineer like his auntie Mavis.

All the animals were busy and engaged in their play. Mrs Bear then rang the little golden bell which let the animals know that it was time to get lunch. As Mrs Bear counted all the animals as they lined up, she noticed Simon was missing. Mrs Bear asked the animals to help look for Simon as he might have fallen asleep anywhere in the garden. Henry heard a very faint snoring sound coming from a pile of leaves. Everyone cheered which woke Simon up and he said sleepily "I love nursery."