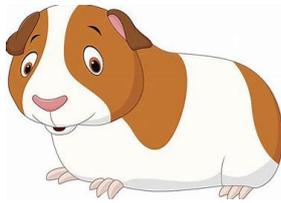


Welcome back to the Animal Nursery. We hope you enjoy the tale for today.



Robert



Gwen



Debbie



Scott



Rosie



George



Mabel



Bertie



Simon



Terry



Coco



Felicity



Martin



Dana



Henry



Saffron

The Tale of the Special Visitors

This week at nursery the room looked a little bit different. Beside the white board there were now two desks, with a chair at each desk. There was also a box of school jumpers that the animals could wear, alongside rucksacks and bags and lunch boxes just like big animals used, when they were going to school. Mrs Bear had even got some trays from the dinner hall so the animals could practice using a tray if they were going to have a school dinner. At first, carrying items on the tray was a bit tricky but it was so much easier with practice.

Mrs Bear rang the bell that meant that she had an important message to say. She asked for everyone to remember their good listening, She had a list of names that she was going to read out and if you heard your name you were to go and sit quietly in the cloakroom. On Mrs Bear's list were Robert and Debbie, from the red group, Rosie and George, from the green group, Terry and Coco from the yellow group and Henry and Saffron, from the blue group. All the animals mentioned were going to be starting school after the Summer Holidays. Mrs Hippo took the younger animals outside to make amazing things with sticks which Bertie and Mabel thought would be so much fun.

Mrs Bear explained that everyone would be big school animals in a couple of months and thought that a talking about school, together time might be useful. They started their together time with their special song "We all are here together" then Mrs Bear invited everyone to say anything they were thinking about school.

Robert's tail repeatedly thumped against the floor which Mrs Bear saw and heard and asked him to go first. "My cousin Ralph goes to school. He says it is super cool and you get to do loads of super cool things. His class did a project about space and even got to see a real telescope!. They got to draw planets and name them all and sing funny songs about space". "That sounds amazing", said Mrs Bear. George indicated he wanted to speak next. "My mummy is a teacher and she says that she loves her job. She has been helping me to write my name, I found that writing the letter e was so tricky but I kept on going". "Well done for not giving up, George" said Mrs Bear. "You showed great resilience". George smiled, as all the animals had been learning not to give up when something was a bit hard and to try different ways of solving problems.

Coco purred "I just can't wait to try the climbing wall in the school playground. It looks a bit high but I think that I can make it to the very top!". Debbie said "I can play with basketball and football and do lots of running in all that space. I can't wait!", she woofed happily. Rosie said "even though Debbie and me are at different schools we can still see each other and play chase and hide n seek at break time and lunch time. "I can see you have it all carefully planned out." said Mrs Bear smiling. Henry said he had found out there were lots of different building materials at school. Henry loved the brick area and building things so he looked very happy. Terry said he was looking forward to exploring in the huge playground and making lots of friends.

Mrs Bear noticed the only animal who hadn't said anything was Saffron. This was unusual as usually Saffron loved together time and loved to chat. Mrs Bear asked Saffron if she wanted to say something about school. Saffron said sadly "I know school sounds wonderful but I want to stay at nursery with all my friends and you, Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo. "Saffron, you will make lots of new friends," said George kindly. Rosie added "Saffron you are super kind, everyone will be really pleased to be your friend". Debbie said "Saffron your baa is the happiest sound in all the world, everyone loves it". Robert added

“in the playground they have a buddy bus stop so if you are feeling a bit sad or lonely if you wait there other animals will come over and invite you to play with them”. Robert continued “Ralph used the buddy bus stop and it worked, as he has so many friends”.

Mrs Bear couldn't help but smile at the animals kindness to each other. Wiping away a happy tear she said “Saffron, if you ever feel a bit lonely at snack times please visit the nursery garden, Mrs Hippo and I will always be delighted to see you”. Saffron remembered that was what the big animals did, they would often stand at the garden gates and have a chat with Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo. All of this information did make Saffron feel better. Mrs Bear then checked her watch and said they were going to have some very special visitors from the school.

Five minutes later, there was a knock at the nursery door and Mrs Bear went over and answered it. In walked two animals who introduced themselves as Katie and Kevin. They were both koalas. They said they had both attended St. Mary's animal nursery when they were younger. Mrs Bear asked them both to talk about school. Katie said “ before I started school I was a tiny bit nervous at first but, I was so excited. Everyone was so lovely and helpful. I had a wonderful Primary One teacher who was very kind. In Primary One I learned to write really well as everyday we would practice. My teacher made it such fun! I wrote letters, including one to a dragon!, invitations, shopping lists, menus, so much writing. I also learned to read and got to take a book home every night. I love reading so much. We got to put on a show and I was a friendly dragon. I love eating my lunch in the big dinner hall and playing with all my friends in the big playground. I love school” said Katie happily.

Kevin said “ I was a little bit shy at first but my teacher really helped and I ended up being the class representative and making decisions to help the school. I wasn't so keen on reading at first, but my teacher found out that I loved boats and ships so I got a book about boats that I really liked. I have always loved numbers, the Numberjacks was my favourite programme. At school you do lots of active maths lessons outside which is so much fun. Everyday there is always something new to learn”.

Mrs Bear thanked Katie and Kevin and then they both read a book. Katie read “ I am too absolutely small for school” while Kevin read “ Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School”. All of the animals enjoyed the stories very much and gave Katie and Kevin a big round of applause. Mrs Bear said how proud she was of both of them. Katie and Kevin waved at everyone when they left the nursery.

A few minutes later, Mrs Hippo and all the other animals came back inside all eager to show Mrs Bear their stick craft creations. Bertie flew over to his best friend, Saffron to ask what she had been doing. Saffron told Bertie about Katie and Kevin and how much fun school sounded and then added, “ I just can't wait to go to school”!