

Our Chickens

Part of our investigations into animal life cycles at The Patch is to study the development of the chicken from incubation to 8 weeks of age. We are lucky to have the help of a parent with a large variety of chicken breeds and each year we are supplied with up to 90 fertile eggs which we place in our large automatic incubator in the Eco-Centre and eagerly await the first hatchings. Our school hens were born this way and are now into their third year, providing lots of opportunities for our students to observe their behaviour and learn to handle them correctly; it's lots of fun collecting the eggs also.

Usually we raise chickens to track their development from day one to when they leave our school and take up residence in new homes. This process means our students learn about preparing the eggs for incubating, egg hygiene, fertility rates and correct storage of eggs. It also provides lots of data on weight, body development and breed differences when the chicks are born and we track their development. We can compare and contrast breeds, learn to handle them safely and nurture and take responsibility for their needs. When our chickens are old enough to leave school, the income they generate enables us to purchase animal feed over the summer holidays.

Our chicken breeds include Polish Bantams, Pekin Bantams, Wyandotte Bantams, Silky Bantams, Black Australorp and Transylvanian Naked Necks (which look rather like vultures).







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...Alan Cooper reported to Whistler
...the world's longest continuously operating a way
...Czech Republic (Czech) and the famous in the
...substantive's name still, appeared on a record for the
...the night's home, the young people of today, "I like to
...because, it is a South American thing."

DOGS UP OF BIRDS FEEL, Page 42

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