

WAIMAUKU SCHOOL

AG DAY 2020

DATES

Animal Talk
Tuesday 30 June

Last day to order
chicks on Kindo
24 July

Chicken Talk
Wednesday 12 August

Bring your little box
in to the office by
Wednesday 19 August

Pick up your chicks
Friday 21 August

Last day to hand in
diaries & projects
Monday 12 October

Ag Day Saturday
17 October

CHICKS

YOUR CHICKS' FIRST DAYS

The chicks will arrive on 21 August and a parent will need to collect them at 3pm.

Please drop off a small box to the office before 19 August. The chicks will be tiny so the box needs to be very small (around 10cm x 10cm) and lined with something soft to keep the chicks warm and stop them rolling around on the way home.

When you pick up your chicks you must keep them warm as they will not start to feed if they are cold. Chicks can be kept in a hotwater cupboard for the first couple of nights until their house is ready.

Do not overhandle your chick in the first few days, and if you do pick them up be gentle and only use your fingers - never thumbs.



A HOUSE FOR YOUR CHICKS

Your chicks need a house which allows them to move around depending on how hot or cold they are. Put shredded paper on the floor, please don't use wood shavings for bedding as the chicks will eat it instead of their food.

You will need a heat source, most people use a 60 watt bulb which is left on all the time. Be careful there is nothing close to the bulb which could catch fire.

Temperatures should be 33 degrees for the first week and reduced weekly until its down to about 15 degrees.

As the chicks get older (about 3 weeks) they will have grown enough feathers to be able to be outside during the day - but only on a warm day and definitely not at night time. You can tell they are ready to go outside when they start spending time away from the lightbulb.

As your chicks grow they need a bigger house, about 1 metre x 30cm x 50cm deep. Cover the box with chicken mesh. Have a solid lid at one end so you can put food and water in. You need to clean it every day.

From about 5 weeks your chicks can be placed outside but you need to make sure their cage is sturdy so they can't get out and no other animals can get in and eat them.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHICKS DON'T LOOK WELL

- Make sure your chicks are inside and warm, with no cold draught on them
- Make sure they have food, fresh water and their home is cleaned every day
- Make sure one chick isn't bullying the other



KEY POINTS

Keep me warm

Keep me safe from cats and dogs (and little brothers and sisters!)

Don't over handle me

Gentle fingers, no thumbs when you pick me up



FOOD AND WATER

Your chicks will not eat much for the first 36 hours as they live off the yolk that is absorbed just before they hatch.

The best chick food is chick rearing crumbles or fine chick grain. You can get these from Horselands Kumeu Grain on Waitakere Road. Food needs to be available all the time as chicks are growing fast - put fresh food out for them morning and night. The first couple of times you feed your chicks you may have to wiggle your finger in the crumbles until they get the idea of where and what their food is. They don't have a mother to show them so you will need to step in! Your chicks need access to clean water at all times. The lid from a peanut butter jar is good as chicks can drown in their drinking water if it is too deep. The chicks will grow really fast and you will need to increase their food accordingly. From around 3-4 weeks you can start to sprinkle some of your kitchen scraps into your chick's cage.

Chicks are curious so it is good to give them something to look at in their house. You can put a low perch in for them to climb on - this also helps them learn to perch. You can use a twig about as round as your little finger and nail it to two small blocks of wood so it is stable and won't tip over. If you find small bugs or worms you can feed the chicks treats. A lump of grass in a cut down ice cream container is also fun for the chicks to explore.

Your chicks will respond to the amount of time you spend with them



WAIMAUKU SCHOOL CHICKEN REARING CUP AWARD

Students who have raised chicks this year are eligible to compete for the Chicken Rearing Cup.

If you have chickens from previous years these can be entered in the Birds and Chickens Competition which is separate from the Chicken Rearing Cup Award.

The Cup is awarded to the student who competes the best in the following three sections:

Chicken Diary

Keep a simple diary from the day you collect your two chicks which explains how you look after them and how they develop. You can include special stories about them and photos or drawings. Sample diaries will be on display in the library to give you ideas.

Chicken Project

A research project on chickens. Ideas for your project could include breeds of chickens and what they're used for, all about eggs, caring for chickens, the difference between cage/barn/freerange chickens and eggs.

Ag Day Judging

Chickens will be judged by our local chicken expert, emphasis will be on the child's effort, care and involvement with the chicken.



BRINGING YOUR CHICKS TO AG DAY

You can choose whether you bring 1 or 2 chicks to Ag Day. They need to be in a secure travelling cage. Bring an old towel to put on top of the cage to protect your chicks from sun and wind. Make sure your chicks have food and water to keep them happy during the day. Put a label on the cage with your name and room number and the chickens' names.

