

# 'BACK TO SCHOOL'



**M**arie Brown, a member of Wimbledon Village Stables, is looking forward to September when her children go back to school. Unlike most parents, this isn't for the peace and quiet but so that she can go back to school too. Marie said "I'm going back to my riding school, on my favourite horse, Havana. I'm not a practising lawyer anymore, I'm a practising horse rider!"

Marie rode as a child and grew up with horses in South Africa. "Horses had such a positive impact on my life" Marie recalls. After relocating from South Africa to London with her husband and two sons Marie wondered if she would be able to continue to enjoy her favourite pastime. Marie first heard about the stables when she moved to London and worked in the City, she visited the stables and checked it out before becoming a member. "I was immediately impressed" she remembers. "Becoming a member was the best thing I've done, I absolutely love it!"

Wimbledon Village Stables is also home to the miniature shetland pony, The Fantastic Mr Fudge. Fudge is not ridden but is available to members' children to take out for walks, learn to groom and to handle responsibly. Marie's boys, 4 and 6, have enjoyed learning how to look after a pony and have developed a love of horses like their mum. Over the summer holidays, the family spent a month in France and the children spent their time squabbling over who likes Fudge best and wondering when they get to see him again! Marie admits she has been yearning to get back to the stables too, "I absolutely miss not being able to go to the stables while I'm away" she says. Marie truly values the time spent out on Wimbledon Common and the opportunity to learn and develop her skills. Finally, Marie says fondly "I appreciate the beauty and strength of the horses, plus I adore the amazing team, who run such a slick operation."

Way to go Marie... ■

If you would like to look at becoming a member too, for further information please visit [www.wvstables.com](http://www.wvstables.com) or call 0208 946 8579. [www.wvstables.com](http://www.wvstables.com). [www.equicise.co.uk](http://www.equicise.co.uk). 0208 946 8579