



Kilnhurst St Thomas' C of E Primary Academy

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Head of School: Mrs V Sherwood

Executive Headteacher: Mrs R Allard



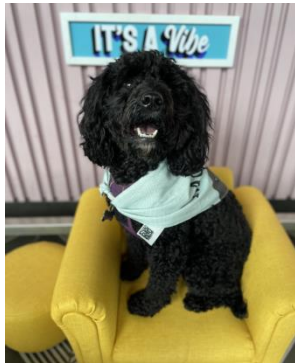
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Dear Parents/Carers

School Dog

I am writing to let you know that St Thomas' has decided to take on a school support dog. This decision has been made following extensive research and discussions with other schools that have a School Support Dog. A full risk assessment has been completed which will be available on our website.

Mookie is 4 years old, is a Cockapoo and belongs to Mrs Neal. Because of Mookie's breed, she is hypoallergenic.



Mrs Neal and I have researched and seen the many benefits of having a school support dog.

- **Dogs teach children about responsibility** – by children having to remember to care for a dog, it can give them a sense of importance and satisfaction that they may not get from other responsibilities.
- **Dogs teach children patience** – they do not always do as they are told first time!
- **Dogs teach children compassion** – just like us dogs feel pain and emotion.
- **Dogs teach children about socialisation** – by the children learning how to interact with a dog they can better learn how to socialise with other children.
- **Dogs are fun** – they greet you with a wagging tail every day and put a smile on your face, even on a bad day.

Mookie has public liability insurance. This means she will be able to come into school. Mookie regularly goes to the vet for yearly vaccinations, flea and worm treatments. Mookie will be based in Mrs Neal's office which is separate from the classrooms and the children will only be able to interact with her under strict supervision, following parental permission. She will initially be in school every Friday. When she is moving around the school she will be on a lead and always with an adult. We hope she will be able to support children in school in areas such as bubble time, reading and nurture groups. With parental permission, over a period of time, children who are fearful of dogs can be supported in approaching, handling and in gaining confidence in managing their fear. I hope the children will gain a lot of enjoyment from having a school support dog and there will be pictures on the website of what she gets up to. Children with identified allergies will not come into contact with Mookie, her belongings or 'base room'.

If you have any individual questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Neal or myself. Please complete and return the attached slip by Wednesday 21st September. It is planned that Mookie will begin to visit school from Friday 23rd September.

Yours sincerely.

Mrs R Webster
Acting Head Teacher

Letter of consent regarding School Support Dog

Please complete and return by Wednesday 21st September

Name of child/ren Class/es

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Please tick as appropriate:

- I am happy for my child to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school support dog.
- My child is a little nervous of dogs, but I am happy for them to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school support dog.
- My child is fearful of dogs, but in time, I would like them to work with the support dog to develop their confidence with an understanding of dogs.
- My child has an allergy which means they must not come into contact with the dog.
- I do not give** permission for my child to come into direct contact with the support dog.

Signed Parent/Carer Name.....

Date