

**With God's love, we learn hand in hand**



14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

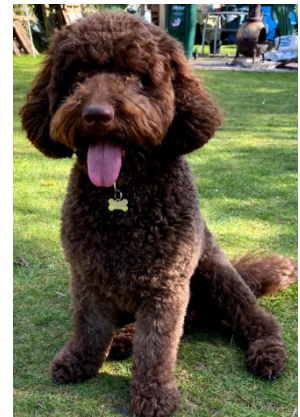
Dear Parents/Carers,

### **School Dog**

I am writing to let you know that on Wednesday 21st July we will be inviting a dog into school. A full risk assessment has been completed which will be available on our website. Chester is nearly 2 years old, a labradoodle (hypoallergenic) and belongs to myself (Mrs Owens).

There has been extensive research about the many benefits that can be seen by having a school dog.

- Dogs teach children about responsibility – by children having to remember to feed and give water to the 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.



Chester regularly goes to the vet for yearly vaccinations, flea and worm treatments. The children will only be able to interact with him under strict supervision and as long as parental permission has been given.

He will initially be in school on Wednesday 21st July with the hope of more regular visits from September. When he is moving around the school he will be on a lead and always with an adult. We hope he will be able to support children in school in areas such as reading, nurture groups and also being in the quiet areas on the playground at playtimes.

I hope the children will gain a lot of enjoyment from having a school dog and there will be pictures on Twitter. Staff will be speaking to the children about how to act safely and sensibly around dogs as part of our Summer Safety Week beginning the 19th July.

Please let us know if your child has any allergies or fears of dogs or if you would like to refrain from your child being in contact with the dog. Also, if you have any individual questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or Mrs Marsden.

Please complete and return the attached slip by Monday 19th July. It is planned that Chester will begin to visit school from Wednesday 21st July.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Owens

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### Letter of consent regarding School Dog

**Please complete and return by: Monday 19th July**

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick as appropriate:

- I am happy for my child to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school dog.
- My child is a little nervous of dogs, but I am happy for him/her to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school dog.
- My child is fearful of dogs, but in time, I would like them to work with the dog to develop their confidence with and understanding 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 dog.

Signed Parent/Carer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_