



Dear Parent/Carer

Therapy/Reading Dogs

After discussions in school over recent months, we have decided to progress plans to welcome a dog into school on a regular basis during the week. The purpose of this is to provide students with a form of therapy and to offer a companion to read to during library lessons and at break/lunchtime.

There is a wealth of research and evidence available which supports the benefits of dogs being in school to provide students with an outlet for emotions, offer a form of mental health support and calm young people during an active school day. Many local schools already have dogs as part of their pastoral support offer to students and we are excited about the benefits for our young people. In the coming weeks, we will slowly welcome our new school dog and introduce them to our students.

A risk assessment for the school dog (s) can be found on our website, which has been created by working with other schools who already have dogs as therapy support.

Our school dog(s) are likely to start visiting before half-term and will become a more frequent part of school life as we move through this academic year. We are keen that the dog(s) feel comfortable visiting school and that students become accustomed to them being around.

Please could I ask that should you or your child have a particular concern around being near dogs you let us know so that they are not part of the 1-1 and small group sessions which involve the dog.

As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Guy Swallow

Headteacher