



7th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Well-Being Dog

I am writing to let you know that we have decided to **trial** a well-being dog in school. This decision has been made following extensive research and discussions with the school Governors. A full risk assessment has been conducted and will be published on our school website.

Luna is a dachshund puppy, 5 months old, and belongs to Miss Boyd.

Miss Boyd has researched the many benefits of 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!

Luna regularly goes to the vet for yearly vaccinations, flea and worm treatments. She will be based in Miss Boyd's office (separate from the classrooms) and the children will only be able to interact with her under strict supervision and as long as parental permission has been given. When she is moving around the school she will be on a lead and always be handled by one of her handlers. We hope she will be able to support children in school with behaviour, reading, attendance and also being in the quiet areas on the playground at playtimes. With parental permission, over a period of



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Leamington Community Primary School

Head Teacher: Mr Paul Vine
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Mellor

Leamington Road, Liverpool, L11 7BT

Tel: 0151 284 7848 Fax: 0151 284 7849

Email: office@leamington.liverpool.sch.uk

www.leamingtonprimary.com

 @leamingtonpri  /leamingtonprimary

time, children who are fearful of dogs can be supported with approaching Luna and gaining confidence in managing their fear.

We hope that the children will gain a lot of enjoyment from having a school dog and there will be pictures on social media/school website to keep you updated.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Boyd. Please complete and return the attached slip as soon as possible so that school has a record for each child.

Kind regards,

Mr. P. Vine
Headteacher

Letter of consent regarding School Dog

Please tick as appropriate:

- I am happy for my child to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school dog, including supervised lunchtime walks.
- 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, including supervised lunchtime walks.
- 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:.....
March 2022



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