



WENLOCK CE ACADEMY

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Head Teacher: Ms. O. Burke



15.2.2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Dog

I am writing to inform you that Wenlock has decided to 'employ' a school dog. This decision was made following extensive research and discussions with other schools that have a School Dog. The dog is owned by Mr Hudson and is called Cinnamon; she is a 3-year-old Cockapoo.

The benefits of having a school

- A calming effect on pupils,
- Encouraging talk, expression and participation,
- Developing a sense of responsibility,
- Developing an enthusiasm and enjoyment of animals,
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life,
- Improved behaviour of pupils,
- Helping children build confidence with reading,
- Improving attendance,
- Helping overcome a fear of dogs,
- Further, promotes the well-being of children.



Planning for a School Dog

- Cinnamon is a Cockapoo, a breed of dog which is known for its mild temperament and good nature.
- A full risk assessment will be written and be available on the school website.
- Cinnamon's well-being will be considered carefully, and she will not be put in any position where she feels uncomfortable or threatened.
- All contact with Cinnamon will be carefully planned, and children will never be left unsupervised with her.
- When she is not 'working', Cinnamon will be based in either the school office or the Deputy Headteacher's office.
- Children will be taught how to act near Cinnamon and what a dog's body language tells them about how they are feeling.
- The introduction of Cinnamon into the school is completely dependent upon her reaction to the school and continuing to have the correct temperament. This will



be reviewed regularly, and if at any time there is a question about safety then the scheme will stop.

- Any parent who does not wish for their child to interact with Cinnamon can inform us in writing, and their wishes will be respected at all times.

What about allergies?

- Cinnamon is a Cockapoo, a breed that has low shedding qualities and, therefore, low allergy.
- All areas of the school are vacuumed and cleaned daily.
- Movement around the school will be controlled.
- Cinnamon will be groomed regularly.
- Any child working with or in contact with Cinnamon will wash their hands.
- If a child is allergic to Cinnamon, then they will not come in direct contact with her.

The plan is to introduce Cinnamon to the school after the half-term holiday. These will be through short visits to classes where she will be on a lead (the children will not interact with Cinnamon at this stage). We then hope she will be able to support children in school in areas such as reading, nurture groups, with attendance, Forest School and also being in the quiet areas on the playground at playtimes.

I know there will be lots of parents who will see the benefit of having a school dog and will support this initiative, however, if anybody does have any concerns or further questions then please get in touch, Mr Hudson and I are more than happy to meet you and discuss the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Ms O. Burke

Headteacher