

Dear Parents / Carers,

Wednesday, 15th September 2021

We are very excited to announce that The Dog Mentor programme will be commencing work in our school soon with a number of children. The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children with positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.

Over the last nine years, The Dog Mentor programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills. These improvements then result in improved academic achievement. We envisage that The Dog Mentor Programme will bring a positive influence into the school environment as a whole and look forward to the impact it will have on our children.

Mrs. Stoneham will be bringing her dog, Eve, into school as part of this programme. Full training has been given to both Eve and our staff that will work with Eve in order to ensure that the welfare of everyone involved is maintained as a top priority.

This morning, Mrs. Stoneham and Miss Cooper have spoken to all the children about Eve and her role within our school and they've explained the importance of following the rules that are in place for both Eve and the children's wellbeing. Along with this letter, we are including a Dogs in Schools FAQs page for your reference.

Please complete and return the slip below as soon as possible if you **DO NOT** wish your child to take part in any activities with the Dog Mentor.

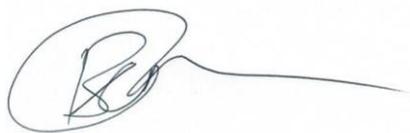
Please feel free to visit The Dog Mentor's website and Facebook page for more details and to see some of the schools that have introduced their dogs into school:

www.thedogmentor.co.uk

www.facebook.com/thedogmentor

We hope that you share our excitement about this programme, and we look forward to sharing updates with you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Yours faithfully,



Ben Hulme
Executive Headteacher

I DO NOT wish for my child _____ in _____ class

to take part in activities with the Dog Mentor.

Signed: _____ Parent / Carer