

## **Further information and answers to any initial questions or concerns you may have :-**

### **What will the school dog do on a day-to day basis ?**

In the mornings, where possible, the dog will be around at the school gate with the Head before school to welcome children. All children will have the opportunity over time to have quality time with the dog and learn how to care for it. It will also be available to calm unsettled children, walk around the school on a lead with the Head/ member of staff at appropriate times of the day so that it isn't a distraction to children's learning, and to go out on a lunchtime walk at the local park with a member of staff and small group of children. It will attend classes to support their learning where appropriate e.g. to writing instructions if learning about how to care for a pet etc. In the future, the dog will be trained to sit and listen to children read.

### **Safety around the dog**

A risk assessment will be in place and available on the website.

The school will have additional insurance to cover having a school dog on site.

If the Head is at a meeting, there will be a number of designated staff who have agreed to have responsibility to support the dog in her absence.

Children will only have contact with the dog with a supervised adult. When moving around the school, the dog will always be on a lead.

Children will receive training workshops, from the Dog trainer as well as the Dog Trust before and when the dog is introduced into the school setting to teach them how to behave safely around a dog.

The dog will be based in the Head's or the main office and if an adult isn't in the room it will be safely in its crate.

### **What about the children who have allergies around a dog?**

The school has researched that the best breed of dog is a Cockapoo which is hypoallergenic, so that we will aim to cater for all children to be able to have contact with the dog. However, parents and staff will be asked to inform the school if their child is allergic and if so we will work with the family to ensure that the child doesn't have contact with it if this is their wish.

### **What about the children/staff who have a fear for dogs?**

One of the aims of introducing a dog into the school is to reduce the number of children who have a fear for dogs by teaching them how to care and behave safely around them. If a child has a fear for dogs we will ask parents to inform us of this so that we can be aware and work with the parents / child with advice and support from the dog trainer to build up their confidence so that they feel safe .

### **Health and well-being of the dog.**

The dog will receive all vaccinations, be wormed, groomed and cared for.

The Head (the owner of the dog) will have pet insurance to insure if it is ill the dog will receive immediate medical attention.

### **Hygiene**

There will be a designated area for the dog to be toilet trained which will be away from the children at the front of the school site. In the early stages of training if the dog was to have an accident this would be cleared up immediately by a member of staff who is happy to do so with suitable cleaning products. Children will never be asked to handle picking up 'poo' in a bag.

If children have stroked the dog they will be taught to wash their hands afterwards.

### **What happens if the dog is ill?**

If the dog were to be taken ill it would not attend school and would be cared for at home until it was fit to return to school.

Please don't hesitate to contact school if you have any questions that have not been covered above. Thank you in advance for supporting us in introducing a school dog at Westfield.