



Brownlow Fold Primary School

Headteacher Mrs J. Cheung

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Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to inform you that we will have a new member of our school community who will be joining us later this year. After liaising with other head teachers in Bolton that have a dog in school Mrs Cheungs dog Teddy, will be coming into school as part of our on-going provision for wellbeing and mental health. Teddy will live with Mrs Cheung and come in to school to provide support for targeted children. Numerous research studies have shown the benefits of therapy dogs in schools. Therapy dogs have been working in schools across the UK for many years and are becoming increasingly more common as a result of the broad-ranging benefits achieved.

There will be a long period of integration into the school, with the children taught how to act near Teddy, as well as Teddy receiving extensive training. Dogs teach children responsibility; develop care, consideration and empathy. They teach children compassion, socialisation, promote children's enjoyment at being in school, wellbeing, increase confidence, enjoyment and progress when reading. Research has shown the benefits of children reading aloud to dogs: reduced anxiety, increased fluency and improved confidence. Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day. There are many benefits of having a school dog, as detailed below:

- A calming effect on pupils;
- Improved behaviour and concentration, reduced stress and improved self-esteem;
- Encouraging expression, participation and confidence for all children;
- Fostering a sense of responsibility;
- Motivating pupils to think and to learn;
- Developing an enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals;
- Encouraging respect and thereby improving pupils' relationships with each other, parents and teachers;
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life;
- Helping work undertaken with the most vulnerable children;
- Helping children build confidence in reading;
- Improving attendance;



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

2019-2022



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2019-2022



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



- Helping overcome a fear of dogs;
- Increasing staff morale and wellbeing;
- Developing the understanding of unconditional love;
- Supporting with the development of cooperative play;
- Supporting children to develop empathy;
- Helping with reading
- Further, promote our Well Being agenda for pupils.

How has the school planned for this?

- Rigorous research has been carried out to ensure that we have selected the most suitable breed of dog (Toy Poodle) for our school, pupils and staff;
- Prior to purchasing the puppy members of staff visited the home of the breeder to ensure that the puppy's temperament, and that of its parents, is suitable for interaction with children;
- A full risk assessment and policy has been written and will be available on the school website;
- When the dog begins working with individual children, consent will be sought for each child to have contact;
- Children who do not want any contact with the dog/have allergies will not have any contact with the dog;
- All contact will be carefully planned and children will not be left unsupervised with the dog;
- Teddy will be based in Mrs Cheung's office

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Cheung
Head Teacher

Consent regarding contact with an animal in school

Please complete and return by

Please tick as appropriate:

☐	I am happy for my child to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school dog, including supervised 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 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 of 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.

Pupil Name:

Signed:

Parent/Carer