



Riverside Primary School & Nursery

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School Wellbeing Dog

I am writing to let you know that Riverside has decided to welcome a school wellbeing dog. This decision has been made following extensive research, discussion with other schools that have a school dog and approval of the Governing Body. A full risk assessment has been completed which is available on our website in the Wellbeing Dog Policy.

Our wellbeing dog is called Nelly. Nelly is a 9 year old Labrador Retriever and belongs to Ms Barnard. Nelly was trained by Hearing Dogs and has achieved the Kennel Club Silver Good Citizen Scheme.

Research has found that there are many benefits of having a school dog.

- Dogs teach children about responsibility
- 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
- Dogs can help children progress with reading skills.
- Dogs are fun – they greet you with a wagging tail every day and put a smile on your face, even on a bad day.



Nelly will be based in Ms Barnard's office and will be in school every Friday.

When she is moving around the school she will be on a lead and always with an adult. We hope she will be able to support children in school in areas such as reading, nurture groups, with attendance and also quiet times as needed.

Engagement with Nelly will be purely voluntary and with parental permission. **Please use this link <https://forms.gle/hoJU7zA3nLgEkoUWA> to give your consent and inform us of any medical allergies or if your child is anxious about dogs.** If you have any questions which are not answered in the Wellbeing Dog Policy, please do not hesitate to speak to Ms Barnard or myself.

We look forward to welcoming Nelly and to all the benefits she will bring to our children.

Kind regards,

Richard Daniels – Headteacher

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