



SAINT PETER'S METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher Rob Garratt

Forgiveness

Tolerance

Hope

Reverence

Love & Compassion

Truth & Trust

Thankfulness

Respect

Friendship

Joy

7th September 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Following the message sent out during the summer holidays regarding our plans for a school dog, I am writing to introduce you to Monty.



Monty is a 4 month old Cockapoo from a local breeder in Blean. The breed has an ideal temperament for a school environment and is widely used in the field of therapy and support. Cockapoos are used successfully in other schools, and one of his brothers is also going to be a school dog!

Monty will also undertake training to work with children, supporting;

- children with reading,
- those who have special needs,
- children who suffer bereavement or
- pupils who are upset in any way and are in need of calm, comfort and space before being able to tell an adult what has upset them.

We are considering additional ways of how to use Monty in school, including as a reward where pupils are nominated to join 'Club Monty' for a week. During this time they may be able to walk him in Grey Friars gardens and groom him, as well as update his 'dog blog'. All of this will be under strict supervision.

He will also be available to work with children (and adults) who have had bad experiences with dogs or other animals. With parental permission, over a period of time children who react fearfully to dogs will be supported in approaching, handling and gaining confidence with Monty. While the dog's school 'home' will be an office area, children will be able to interact with the dog under strict

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supervision at certain times of the week as long as parental permission has been given.

The dog will not be given access to other visitors without supervision and mutual consent. Please understand that we will do everything we can to reassure children who are fearful and that under no circumstances will they be forced to meet with Monty. Whilst moving around the school, Monty will be kept on a short lead and will always be with an adult.

We hope the children will gain a great deal of enjoyment from having their school dog and that he becomes an established part of life at St Peter's. We understand that it is not possible for all families to have a family dog and therefore we hope that this is an opportunity for children to have a 'share' in a dog and gain from contact on a regular basis.

We will publish updates via his dog blog on the school website, and his own Twitter feed! (@Montyschdog)

Please can you complete the form via the link below or on the attached sheet giving permission for your child to spend time with Monty.

<https://docs.google.com/a/st-peters-canterbury.kent.sch.uk/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPVw9l6GKIZ1WQJvgu1R1gA0Stp4SZ13DPtagpcB9BYbEpaQ/viewform>

Yours sincerely,

Rob Garratt

Headteacher



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Permission slip for working with Monty the school dog.

Please tick as appropriate:

- I am happy for my child to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school dog, including supervised lunchtime walks.
- My child is a little nervous of dogs but I am happy for him/her to be involved in all aspects of caring for the school dog, including supervised lunchtime 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.
- I do not give permission for my child to come into direct contact with the dog.

Child's name(s): _____

Class(es): _____

Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____