



Georgian Gardens CP School

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Head Teacher: Miss A Bowers

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Dear Families,

We are writing to let you know that we have decided to take on a school dog! This decision has been made following a hugely positive response from parents and staff in the survey we sent out in the summer term, 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 will be available on our website.

Molly is a brown and white Sprocker Spaniel and belongs to Mrs Lewis. She will be the main point of contact for any dog questions.

Mrs Lewis has researched and seen the many benefits of having a school dog:

- **Dogs teach children responsibility.** Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give children a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from school or other chores. The relationship that develops can be life changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.
- **Dogs teach children patience.** Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!
- **Dogs teach children compassion.** Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.
- **Dogs teach children about socialisation.** Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, children can learn how to better socialise with other children. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk will be a walk in the park (pun intended).
- **Dogs are comforting.** Dogs can help to reduce anxiety and calm children/adults who are upset.
- **Dogs are fun.** 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.

Permission for your child to have some contact with Molly will be presumed if no written communication to the school office is received by Friday 13th September. Contact email address: office@georgiangardens.w-sussex.sch.uk

Molly will grow up in the school environment becoming fully accustomed to the routines of the day and supportive of students within the school and she will be based in Mrs Lewis'/Miss Lewry's Office and The Hub area of the school. Children will only be able to interact with her under strict supervision and when she is moving around the school, she will be on a lead and always with an adult. We hope that she will be able to support children in school in areas such as reading, well-being, attendance and also being in the quiet areas on the playground.



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With parental permission, over a period of time, children who are fearful of dogs can be supported in approaching, handling and gaining confidence in managing their fear.

We hope that the children will gain a lot of enjoyment from having a school dog and there will be pictures on the website of all that she does.

It has been arranged for The Dogs Trust to come in to school and do workshops with every class on 'How to be Dog Smart' on 25th, 26th and 27th November. This will complement the training Molly has already completed, and will continue to do, with Mrs Lewis and professional dog trainers.

If you have any individual questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Lewis or Miss Bowers.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lewis
Assistant Headteacher

Miss Bowers
Head teacher



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