



ST. DAY & CARHARRACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Dear Families,

I am writing to advise you of an exciting addition to the children's school day.

Over the last term, we have had a number of successful visits to the school by dogs owned by members of staff, myself included, the dogs have been kept under strict supervision of their owners, are fully inoculated and are used to mixing with children.

During these visits, we have noticed a beneficial change to the children's behaviour, they have been calm and relaxed and informed us they have very much enjoyed having the opportunity to meet the visiting dog, and have found it very soothing to be able to stroke and talk to the dog. As a result of this, we have decided to make the visits a regular item on the school timetable, booked in advance to avoid any potential conflicts.

We are of course aware of a number of concerns you may have and would like to reassure you that a school risk assessment is in place and provide you with the following information below:

- **On the day of a dog's visit a sign will be displayed on the school entrance doors advising visitors of the dog's presence on site.**
- We hold information at school regarding your child's allergies and these are always checked prior to any visits, however we would request that you ensure you advise us of any changes to your child's Medical history as soon as possible so that we can update these records
- If you would prefer your child not to meet with the dog or have any concerns regarding allergic reactions/phobias, please discuss these with the class teacher who will be happy to make special arrangements for your child for that day. Amber dog has already supported a number of children to overcome their fears of dogs.

I hope you will agree these visits will benefit your child and enable them to meet and enjoy the contact with a dog in a safe and familiar environment of their school. Amber dog is very popular in school and particularly enjoys playtime – especially if there is a ball involved! Amber has supported children to take turns, be engaged in learning, develop patience and concentration, calm stressful situations and generally make everyone smile – supporting mental health and well-being of staff and children.

Please note that these planned visits are risk assessed and controlled to keep everyone safe. Please note that Amber dog is superb with children but is still learning to be friendly with other dogs. School policy of no dogs allowed on the school site during drop off and pick up remains in place.



Please do contact me if you have any concerns in relation to your child and contact with dogs.

Yours sincerely

Susannah Storey
Headteacher