



## Newsletter

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News and events from Salisbury Primary

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### MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

In our last newsletter, we were excited to announce that we would be getting a school dog. Ms Armstrong has been busy looking into everything we will need to do once we have the dog on site, as well as researching different breeds of dogs and taking advice from a variety of sources before making the final decision. The top priority for any dog has been to ensure that the temperament of its parents was suitable for interaction with children. Ms Armstrong has found a ShihPoo puppy, currently 7 weeks old, that she will be collecting during the half-term break. After the holidays, the puppy will be in school based in the Deputy Headteachers' office to adapt to his environment and learn socialisation. Children will be gently introduced to him, although during the Autumn 2 half-term they will not be allowed to touch him.

Our puppy will begin his training out of school hours and then Emily Mazon from [www.familypaws.com](http://www.familypaws.com) will complete assessments and training sessions in school, including assemblies for the children.

Introducing a school dog can have many benefits for our children, including:

- learning to care for a pet and benefit children's social and emotional development
- calming effect on pupils, particularly those with behavioural or learning difficulties
- improved behaviour and concentration, reduced stress and improved self-esteem
- encouraging expression and participation in more withdrawn children
- fostering a sense of responsibility
- motivating pupils to think and to learn, as children have a high level of natural interest in, 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 and educational improvements with our less confident learners
- helping children build confidence in reading

As well as reducing children's anxieties if they have a fear of dogs. There are schools in the country that have trained their school dog to work with children who have special needs, suffer bereavement or who are upset in any way and in need of calm, comfort and space before being able to tell an adult what has upset them.

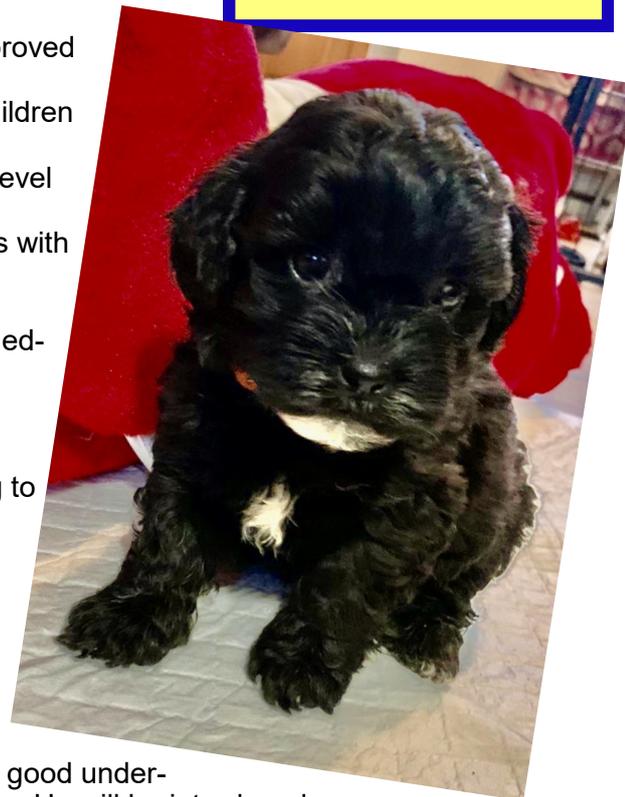
In addition to this, dogs can be trained to listen to children read, having a positive impact on increasing children's confidence in reading aloud. We would also like to provide the opportunity for children who react fearfully to dogs to be supported in approaching, handling and gaining confidence in managing their fear.

All year groups will undertake training sessions so that they have a good understanding of how to behave calmly, safely and kindly towards the dog. He will be introduced very slowly into the school environment and priority will always be given to the safety and well-being of pupils and staff as well as the dog. He will be kept on a lead until fully trained when moving around the school and would be under the full control and supervision of an adult.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the puppy is invited to write to inform Ms Armstrong of their wishes. The risk assessment will be reviewed regularly and the impact of a school dog will be evaluated by the school senior management team.

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## SPOOKY DRESS UP DAY

FoSS have organised for Salusbury to take part in a spooky dress up day on Thursday 22 October 2020.

As children are not able to celebrate Halloween in the usual way this year, FoSS will be giving sweets to be handed out in class at the end of the day. The children will wait until after school to eat them, in case you'd prefer them not to. FoSS hope the children enjoy this Halloween treat! For anyone who does not celebrate Halloween, children can wear usual non-uniform or fancy dress.



## PARENT FORUM

Thank you to the 100+ parents who joined the Senior Leadership Team on the Parent Forum Zoom last week. Feedback was extremely positive and it was by far the best turnout we have ever had for a Parent Forum. Now we are aware that more families find this an accessible format we will make sure that next Zoom meeting has greater capacity. In the meantime, you have all been sent the slides from the meeting.

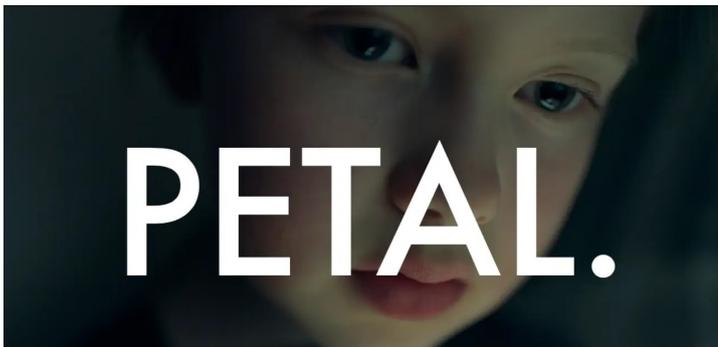
## PETAL

Nova in 5 Tanzanite has made an incredible film called Petal with her film maker dad during lockdown. The budding actress has recently won best performance in the Iso Film Festival (a competition of short films made during lockdown) for her starring role!

Check out this wonderful short film at:

<https://vimeo.com/421619166>

Next step, Hollywood and an Oscar!



## HAND WASHING

Handwashing is a frequent occurrence during the school day with the important time being when the children enter the school in the morning as they are returning from home which is a different setting. With this in mind, this is a gentle reminder to ensure that your children wash their hands as soon as they get home.

## THE ART ROOM BHM PROJECT

Place2Be's Art Room team have launched a project to mark Black History Month. At Salusbury, we will be looking at the resources for the project, as well as many other things. Please visit the link below for more information.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/october/place2be-s-art-room-team-launch-project-to-mark-black-history-month/>

## OPAL'S LOCKDOWN POEM

Opal have been creating a wonderful poem...

### **Lockdown**

*We couldn't see our loved ones for a very long time,  
Doors have been locked, this is a crime,  
Streets were empty and deserted,  
New rules have been inserted.  
Couldn't go to the park, what a shame,  
Tired of seeing friends on Zoom,  
It's ages since my dog had a groom.  
Blooming flowers face their doom!  
We're watching caterpillars make their cocoon.  
It's getting boring here without my friends,  
Why do rules have to extend?  
Someone's got to make some amends...  
Days have been dreadful,  
Worse than I thought,  
But the sky is blue,  
Thanks to you.*



## TIER 2 RESTRICTIONS

Tier 2 restrictions will not affect Salusbury Primary School. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday!