



Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs N. Comer
Great Gaddesden
Hemel Hempstead
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HP13BT

Wednesday 27th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Subject: School dog

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and relaxing.

We are intending to have a school dog who would be in school one day a week to support the children's social and emotional development. This dog would be checked by the vet; receive relevant inoculations; be wormed regularly every six months; have his claws kept trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches and have its coat cleaned regularly. The dog is owned by Mrs Jessop and is a Golden Retriever, called Donut, he was born on 1st March 2017. The breeder is a judge and behaviourist and prides herself on the nature and temperament of her dogs. Mrs Jessop and Donut have attended puppy training classes with Karen Tonge, a local dog-trainer. Donut will live in the school office when not working with children.

All children will receive instruction on how to work with Donut e.g. washing hands after stroking him, not putting fingers near his mouth etc. Once this is complete children will be invited to read to and/or walk Donut during the school day. This will be with an adult who is experienced with dogs.

We hope you welcome this exciting opportunity to have a dog within school. However, we do understand that some children may be a little anxious and/or have allergies to dogs, please let us know any information on the form below.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jessop & Mrs Comer
Senior Teacher Head teacher



Please respond by **Tuesday 3rd October.**

My child is allergic / not allergic to dogs. (Please circle relevant answer.)

My child is anxious / not anxious around dogs. (Please circle relevant answer.)

Please provide more details below if you have ringed 'anxious':

I hereby give permission/do not give permission for my child to work with Donut.

Pupil's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____