

Rothwell Victoria Infant School

Part of the Montsaye Community Learning Partnership

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CARE SHARE
HELP SMILE



Montsaye Community
Learning Partnership



Friday 10th March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid in supporting children's communication, empathy, sense of responsibility, mental health and nurturing skills. 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 less forbidding. Many schools have found that some children find dogs less threatening to read to and to talk to if they have a problem.



With this in mind, we are pleased to introduce our school dog, Ruby. Ruby is a 3 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who belongs to Miss Loomes. We have chosen Ruby to be our school dog because the breed is known to be gentle and Ruby has a lot of experience of enjoying the company of children.

Ruby will be introduced to the school environment slowly and on the lead at first. She will only be allowed to interact with children under close adult supervision. Children will be taught how to handle Ruby correctly, how to behave around her and to wash their hands after handling her. They will also be taught about the signs that a dog is unhappy, such as having its tail between its legs and ears down and what to do in this situation. Ruby will not be allowed in any areas where food is eaten or prepared. She will have rest periods in a crate in one of the offices.



We accept 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 Ruby is invited to inform us of their wishes in writing by Thursday 16th March. Similarly, please let us know if your child has any allergies or phobias related to dogs.**

We have a thorough risk assessment that will be reviewed annually and that will be available to view on our school website.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Hurling
Headteacher

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