



QUORN HALL  
SCHOOL

10th May 2021

Quorn Hall School  
Quorn Hall  
Meynell Road  
Quorn  
Leicestershire  
LE12 8BQ

Dear Parents/Carers

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### **School Therapy Dog**

I am writing to let you know that Quorn Hall School has decided to take on a school therapy dog. This decision has been made following extensive research, discussion with other schools that have a School Dog and with the approval of the Governing Body. The breed of the dog will be a Cavapoochon, known as a triple hybrid dog, this breed was chosen because it exhibits a wide variety of characteristics and traits gained from all three breeds. Its unique features, temperament and behaviours are the perfect combination for a school therapy dog. A full risk assessment has been completed which will be available on our website.

We will be collecting the puppy next week who is yet to be named by our students (a Newsletter update will confirm his name) and will live with a member of staff who will take care of him inside and outside of school.

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

- Dogs teach children about responsibility – by children having to remember to feed and give water to the dog it can give them a sense of importance and satisfaction that they may not get from other responsibilities.
- Dogs teach children patience – they do not always do as they are told the first time!
- Dogs teach children compassion – just like us dogs feel pain and emotion.
- Dogs teach children about socialisation – by the children learning how to interact with a dog they can better learn how to socialise with other children.
- Dogs are fun – they greet you with a wagging tail every day and put a smile on your face, even on a bad day.

QHS has public liability insurance and will be completing an accredited Dog mentoring course. This means he will be able to come into school and work with and around the children. The puppy will attend the vets regularly for yearly vaccinations, flea and worm treatments. Although the dog at times will be working alongside children in their classroom he will be based in the Hall which is separate from the classrooms and the children will only be able to interact with him under strict supervision and as long as parental permission has been given. He will initially be in school every Monday. When he is moving around the school he will be on a lead and always with an adult. We hope he will be able to support children in school in areas such as Forest School, reading, nurture groups, attendance, and also being in the quiet areas on the playground at playtimes.

With parental permission, over a period of time, children who are fearful of dogs can be supported in approaching, handling and in gaining confidence in managing their fear. I hope the children will gain a lot of enjoyment from having a school dog and there will be pictures in the Newsletter of all that he does. I will be arranging to give all the children an assembly and/or a workshop on 'How to Be Dog Smart' this week. If you have any individual questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to Anna Fitzpatrick or myself.

Please complete and return the attached slip by Monday 17th May. It is planned that the dog will begin to attend classrooms around the end of June.

Yours sincerely



Antonia Jackson  
**Headteacher**



**Letter of consent regarding School Therapy Dog**

**Please complete and return by Monday 17th May**

Name of child .....

Please tick as appropriate:

- I am happy for my child to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school dog, including supervised lunchtime walks.
- My child is a little nervous of dogs, but I am happy for him/her to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school dog, including supervised lunchtime walks.
- My child is fearful of dogs, but in time, I would like them to work with the dog to develop their confidence with and understanding dogs.
- My child has an allergy which means they must not come into contact with the dog.
- I do not give permission for my child to come into direct contact with the dog.

Signed .....

Parent/Carer Name .....

Date .....