



Elements Primary School

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10th December 2021

Dear All,

We would like to introduce you to Pip, our new school therapy dog. Pip is a 5 year old miniature dachshund who lives with me but he will be spending lots of time in school interacting with pupils.

Studies have shown there are numerous benefits to having a school pet, the presence of a therapy dog can improve the well-being of children and lower anxiety levels, simply by making the environment happier and more enjoyable. Reading to dogs has been proven to help children develop literacy skills and build confidence, as a dog will listen to children read without being judgemental or critical.

I know some of you will be concerned about possible allergic reactions to a school dog, although Pip is known to be a low shedding breed, we have taken into account children who have disclosed to us an allergy to dogs and children will only work with him if they voluntarily wish to. **Please inform the school if you do not wish your child to interact with Pip.**

A full risk assessment has taken place and the policy regarding school dogs is available to view on our school website. As a school we still adhere to our rule of no dogs on the school site and ask that you do not enter the school grounds with family pets

Pip can't wait to meet you all, I'm sure you're as excited as we are to watch him grow and develop.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Martin
Assistant Principal