 Downholland Haskayne

C.E. Primary School

Black-a-Moor Lane,

Haskayne.

L39 7HX

Tel: 0151 526 0614

head@haskayne.lancs.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

# School Dog

We are very pleased to inform you that Downholland Haskayne will be getting a school dog. This decision was made following extensive research, discussion with other schools that have a School Dog and approval of the Governing Body. A full risk assessment has been completed which will be available on our website.

Betty is 2 years old, she is a Border Terrier and belongs to Mrs. Bell.

School 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 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.

**Betty regularly goes to the vet for yearly vaccinations and flea and worm treatments.**

She is friendly, loves the company of children and adults, she has never shown any signs of aggression towards children or adults, even the vet when she is being given her injections!!!

Betty will be based in The Nurture and Learning Hub and the children will only be able to interact with her under strict supervision. Children who don’t access the Hub will be given frequent opportunities to interact with Betty, she will be in school every morning. We hope that she’ll be able to support children coming into school in the morning, support children in the Nurture and Learning Hub, support children with their reading, by encouraging the children to read to Betty, helping the children to learn about their emotions, providing emotional support, building confidence and self - esteem.

Betty will be attending assemblies and she will also be visiting the classrooms to see how all the children are enjoying their learning. When Mrs. Bell is on Break-time duty Betty will join her.

**When she is moving around the school she will be on a lead and always with an adult.**

When children are awarded Star of the Week they will also be able to take Betty for a walk around the other classrooms and on the field under full supervision.

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 on the website of all that she does.

A friendly reminder that your own dogs are not allowed on the school premises.

If you have any individual questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs. Bell or myself.

Please complete and return the **Consent Form.**

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Hains

Headteacher

Betty

Border Terrier

# Letter of consent

***Please complete and return***

# Name/s of child/children:

# 

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 and their understanding of 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 contact **Signed………………………………………………..**
* **Parent/Carer**

**Name ………………………………………………………**

**Date …………………………………**