



February 2022

Dear Parent

Therapy Dog

We are pleased to announce that we have two **Therapy Dogs** that will be coming into school to be used with students accessing our Loft provision and those working with our Safeguarding Team. The two dogs that will be in school are a hypo-allergenic Bichon Frise called Elvis, and a Maltese called Pebbles. Both dogs have very calm and friendly temperaments and dogs will always be on a lead.

Therapy Dogs in schools are becoming increasingly popular as they have been proven to help develop literacy skills and confidence, through both the calming effect the dogs' presence has on children and the fact that the dog will listen to the children without being judgemental or critical. This comforting environment helps to nurture children's enthusiasm and provides them with confidence. The calming presence of dogs has also been proven to help reduce anxiety levels and has a positive impact of student well-being and behaviour.

If your child has any **allergies** or does **not** want contact with the dog, please complete the slip below. If you do not return the reply slip we will assume your child has permission to take part in this initiative.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Helen Johnson
Headteacher

Reply Slip - Therapy Dog Programme
Please return to Year Leader as soon as possible

Student Name: _____ Form: _____

I **do not** give my child permission to be in contact with the Therapy Dogs

Signed: _____ (Parent) Date: _____