



Edgewood Primary School

Building skills and values for life

Headteacher: Mr Ed Seeley

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Thursday, 18 November 2021

Dear Parents / carers



We are delighted to announce we are welcoming Tilly the greyhound and her trained handler, Grace Band, to our team at Edgewood Primary School. Grace Band spent over 30 years as a qualified teacher and leader in special education, hospital schools and mainstream schools. She is a qualified teacher, art therapist and qualified counsellor and professional dog trainer.

What will Tilly do in school?

Tilly is a gorgeous, gentle dog, who will be joining us on a Thursday morning. Initially, she will be working with a small number of pupils in a secure location near the school entrance. Tilly will have constant supervision by her handler, Grace. No child will be left alone with Tilly and a school risk assessment to allow her to work in the building is in place.

Safety around the dog

Permission slips will be sent home to children who are invited to work with Tilly, detailing rules of working with her and her handler. Grace will also teach the children how to behave safely around Tilly during their first session together. Tilly will be kept on a lead if she needs to move round the building and is trained to be calm, not jump up and lay on her bed on command.

Tilly is a well-being dog who has experience of working with children in schools across Nottinghamshire.

Children and staff who have allergies to dogs

Tilly has a coat that produces very little dander which reduces the risk of allergic reaction. Parents need to advise the school if their child has an allergy to dogs. Children with allergies will be able to opt out of situations of interaction with the dog, such as an assembly. Tilly will not be allowed in parts of the school where children have allergies.

Good hygiene routines and hand washing to be followed by all who meet and work with Tilly. Should any child develop allergic symptoms whilst working or following working with Tilly, parents and carers will be informed immediately.



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Christchurch Road, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, NG15 6HX

Children who have a fear of dogs

Please inform your child's class teacher if your child has a fear or phobia of dogs. As a school, we will ensure to minimise any risk of your child coming into direct contact with Tilly. She will be working in a designated private space in school, so unplanned contact is extremely unlikely. Your child may be excused from attending a whole school assembly with Tilly. The date for this is yet to be confirmed.

Health and Well-being of the dog

Tilly is vaccinated, wormed and flea protected in accordance with the vet's recommendation. She is checked over regularly for parasites. and will be kept clean and well groomed. If Tilly is unwell, she will not visit the school. She is walked before attending school and will have regular breaks built into her morning, where she can rest peacefully. Tilly will only be working for the morning and has her own risk assessment to be able to work in school.

Should you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact school using the contact information at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Donna Bradley
Assistant Head Teacher & SENCo