



# WOOLGROVE SCHOOL

## Special Needs Academy

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Headteacher

Mrs Lisa Hall



4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### School Dog

I am writing to let you know that Woolgrove has decided to take on a school dog. This decision has been made following extensive research and discussion with other schools that have a school dog. A full risk assessment has been completed which will be available on our website.

Beau is a 10 week old Yorkie Poo who belongs to Vicky Litchfield, one of our deputy heads. At the moment he is getting used to being in my office and taking short walks around the school.



Yorkie Poo's are non-shedding, hypoallergenic dogs and Vicky has carefully 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.

Beau regularly goes to the vet for vaccinations, flea and worm treatments. He will be based in the head teacher's office or the working staffroom, which are separate from the classrooms, and the children will only be able to interact with him under strict supervision. 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 reading, calming activities, walking and self care. If a child is scared of the dog he will be kept away from them and all children will be able to refuse to interact with him if they wish to. 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 he does ([www.woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/pupils/Beau](http://www.woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/pupils/Beau) the school dog). If you do not wish your child to have any contact with Beau or have any individual questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us by calling the office or emailing [admin@woolgrove.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woolgrove.herts.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Hall', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Hall  
**Head teacher**