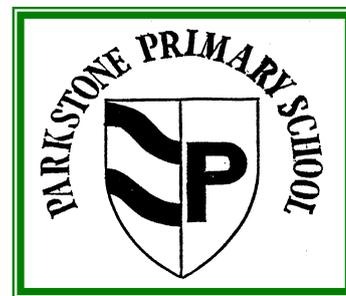


Parkstone Primary School

Learning together

Parkstone Road, Hull, HU6 7DE
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Headteacher – Mrs Sarah Waller



Thursday 2nd March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know that the school, with full support from the staff and Chair of Governors, has decided to take on a school dog.

Our school dog belongs to me and he is a six year old Labrador called Alfie. Alfie had been taken to a local animal shelter as his owner's circumstances changed and they were no longer able to care for him. He has been with me and my family for several weeks and has settled very well. He is well trained, and as he is an older dog, he is quiet and calm around people. He has grown up in a family with young children and gets on very well with my two boys at home.

Some of the benefits of having a school dog include:

- a calming effect on pupils, particularly those with behavioural or learning difficulties
- encouraging expression and participation in quieter children
- teaching children to nurture and respect life
- motivating children to think and to learn, as most children have a high level of natural interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals
- fostering a sense of responsibility

Our school dog will stay in my office, which is secure and separate from the classrooms, and will only come into contact with the children during closely supervised times as long as parental permission has been given. Whilst moving around the school, Alfie will be kept on a short lead and will always be accompanied by an adult. Any children who are fearful of dogs will not, under any circumstances, be forced to meet Alfie, unless a parent/carer specifically requests this.

A risk assessment has been done and this, along with Frequently Asked Questions can be found on our school website.

We understand that it is not possible for all families to have a family dog and therefore we hope that this is an opportunity for children to 'share' in a dog and gain from a relationship and contact on a regular basis.

Can you please complete the consent form attached and return to your child's class teacher.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Waller
Head



Name of child: Class:

Please tick as appropriate:

- I am happy for my child to be involved with all aspects of caring for the school dog.

- My child is a little nervous of dogs, however I am happy for him/her to come into contact with the school dog.

- I **do not** give my permission for my child to come into direct contact with the school dog.

