



Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Hope's Therapy Dog**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

As you may have seen in the recent newsletter we are pleased to welcome the newest member of Hope Community School, Lenny the Therapy dog.

Lenny will be in school on Fridays with Miss Pool and will work with individual children as part of our pastoral team; helping those with emotional difficulties such as anxiety or bereavement. Lenny has a lovely temperament and has undergone training to also help children build confidence and develop social skills.

Research has shown that dogs in schools have many positive benefits:-

- 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.

Lenny will be on a lead at all times when moving around the school property and will always be accompanied by Miss Pool. At times Lenny may visit individual classrooms. Parental permission will be gained for any children working with Miss Pool and Lenny.

If you have any concerns please indicate when you return the permission slip and we will contact you

Please complete the follow permission slip and return to school by Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Therapy Dog - 'Lenny'**

Please tick as appropriate:

I wish to make the school aware that my child ..... has:

*(Child's name)*

..... An allergy

..... A phobia

..... Previous negative dog experience

..... I do not want my child to have direct contact with the dog

..... I am happy for my child to work with the school dog

Parent/Carer: .....

*(signature)*