



Crayke Church of England Primary School
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Headteacher – Mrs Judi Jackson

29th February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of some very exciting news for Crayke CE Primary School.

We are delighted to announce that we are about to welcome a new member of our school community, they will be joining us this term, a 'Pets As Therapy' dog called *Finn*. We have spent time carefully considering the introduction of a PAT dog and have undertaken research that conclusively proves the benefits for children of having this opportunity.



Finn is a black Labrador and is 20 months old, he is owned by Andrea Hayes (Co-Chair of Governors) who has completed and passed an assessment to check that they have a suitable temperament for Pets As Therapy visiting. This is conducted by Pets As Therapy trained assessors or qualified vets. In addition, all animals entering the scheme must be fully vaccinated, wormed and protected against fleas.

The value of pet therapy is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication in both children and adults. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower rates of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, calmer, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

Reading to dogs has been proven to help children develop literacy skills and build confidence, as a dog will listen to children read without being judgemental or critical.

FOLLOW YOUR PATHWAY AND WE GROW TOGETHER WITH CONFIDENCE

*You did not choose me, I chose you that you might **go and bear fruit, fruit that will last** so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. John 15:16*

Respect

Friendship

Forgiveness

Determination

Registered Charity No. 1051985

I know some of you will be concerned about possible allergic reactions to a PAT dog and we can assure you that children will only work with him if they voluntarily wish to. ***Please inform the school if you do not wish your child to interact with Finn.**

A full risk assessment has taken place and the policy regarding school dogs is available to view on our school website.

Finn cannot wait to meet the pupils, he will begin sessions 1 afternoon per week starting with Apple Class week commencing 4th March.

I'm sure you're as excited as we are to welcome Finn to our school.

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Gears
HLTA/Learning Mentor

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