



Dove Bank Primary School

Putting Children First



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming Benji to school to be our **Dove Bank Dog**.

Introducing Benji:

Benji is a 16-month-old Goldendoodle who is owned by myself and my family. Goldendoodles love people and also get along very well with other pets, and they tend to be patient and gentle with young children.

Dogs give unconditional acceptance, as they are non-judgmental, which is especially crucial for some children. Dogs also provide confidence to children as they do not make fun of them and are amazing listeners, providing the children with a sense of comfort and love.

Benji will be coming into school most days. There will initially need to be a period of integration for both children and dog. This means that he will only spend short periods of time with individual children or small groups until he is comfortable and familiar with the school. He will have plenty of time to adjust.

Benji's role will be to spend time with children who need to take a break from the classroom, give reward time to children who wish to spend time with him, have stories read to him and to generally be present around the school to offer a distraction and a soft coat to stroke. When Benji is not working with children, he will be in one of the school offices where he can rest.

It is understandable that some of you may be concerned about possible allergic reactions to a dog in school. However, Benji is subjected to a thorough cleanliness and grooming regime. His fur is hypo-allergenic which means he is unlikely to cause an allergic reaction.

Should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office or see our additional information and Risk Assessment on the Website.

Yours sincerely

A Fletcher

Mrs. A. Fletcher
Head of School

