

PETS AS THERAPY

read2dogs



St Mary's

Catholic Primary School
and Nursery

*Learning and living
together through faith
and education*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your child's class has been chosen to have a 'Read2Dog' come and visit them.

The dog will be brought to school by their volunteer/owner and will join the class for a one-off session on the afternoon of **Monday 16th March 2020**. Children will take turns over time to read to the dog and ask the volunteer/owner questions.

Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe,
Cheshire CW2 8AD
Telephone: 01270 685174

E: admin@stmarysrc.cheshire.sch.uk

www.stmaryscrewe.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S M Fau-Goodwin

Some information from Pets As Therapy:

"Most adults are apprehensive about speaking in public. It is very daunting. Young people are no different. Research shows that young people can become nervous and stressed when reading to others in a group. However, when a PAT Dog enters the group, they often become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident as the dogs are non-judgmental. Before long the young people are starting to look forward to the reading experience as they are going to read to their new friend, the PAT Dog. PAT Dogs provide comfort, encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem, motivate speech and inspire young people to have fun with reading."

Please complete the attached form and return it to your child's class teacher, or complete the 'SURVEY' on the School Spider App, by **Friday 13th March 2020**. Please use the slip to let us know if your child has a fear of dogs or a dog hair allergy.

Please read the reverse of this letter for answers to some common queries, and get in touch with school if you would like any more information.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Noyce
Class Teacher

Miss Kay
Class Teacher

Mrs Moxon
Class Teacher



Pets as Therapy Read2Dog Scheme at St Mary's

Name of child: _____ Class: _____

Please delete as appropriate:

I give permission for my child to have supervised access to the Read2Dog

I **do not** give permission for my child to have supervised access to the Read2Dog

My child is frightened/ not frightened of dogs

My child is allergic/ not allergic to dogs

Any other comments:

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer Date: _____



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Common Queries:

My child has allergies:

Read2Dogs will only be in situations with pupils who voluntarily wish to work with them. Your permission will of course be sought in advance of him having access to, and working with, your child in school. Please let us know if they have an allergy. If your child does not wish to have contact with the dog this is fine.

My child is scared of dogs:

Some children may have had upsetting experiences and thus have a fear of dogs. Our dogs will only be in direct contact with children whose parents have given their permission. Children may see or come into contact with the Therapy or Read2Dog around the school site as they make their way to the classrooms, but they can choose to stay away from them if they wish.

Experience and research have shown that, with proper guidance and handling, children can learn to overcome their fear of animals and grow in respect and appreciation for them. Some children may never learn to love animals, but to learn to accept them within their environment is important in this age, where people come across dogs everywhere within our community.

Read2Dogs and Pets As Therapy (PAT) Dogs have all undergone temperament assessments in order to become a therapy dog.

The school has a 'no dogs' policy:

Our Read2Dogs and Therapy Dogs would be regarded as having similar impact as a member of staff, supporting the children. For this reason, they are an exception to this rule. We have completed an extensive risk assessment to enable Therapy Dogs and Read2Dogs onto school site.

Pets As Therapy dogs have passed full temperament assessments and have all documentation and paperwork in order to be a PAT dog.

Therapy dogs will be on a lead at all times when moving around the school.

