



# Aughton Town Green Primary School

*Only my best is good enough for me"*

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Dear Parents,

I would like to use this letter to inform you that the school is introducing a Therapy Dog (Winnie) who belongs to one of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Fisher Jones. Winnie is a 4 year old Shih-Poo and has been trained through the charity 'Pets as Therapy'. Winnie has all of her required veterinary checks and received the required vaccinations, flea and worm treatment.

We will introduce Winnie to all the classes over a period of time, however her main role will be in helping Mrs Fisher Jones with reading interventions in our lower juniors.

As you might imagine, we have all of the necessary documentation from the 'Pets as Therapy' organisation and put in place detailed risk assessments to support this initiative. Therefore, like lots of other schools, we are confident this will run smoothly and be of benefit to the children.

Before any children partake in sessions with Mrs Fisher Jones and Winnie, we will of course seek parent permission. This will be through your child's class teacher on Class Dojo.

There are many benefits for children of having a Therapy Dog like Winnie; these include:

- A greater enjoyment of being in the school environment and a greater willingness to learn and participate
- Increased willingness to read with a Therapy Dog
- Can support self-esteem and help develop relationships for some children
- Improved pupil behavior, social interaction and sense of responsibility
- A better understanding of how to take responsibility for another living being, with potential better recognition of one's own responsibilities
- Increased knowledge of dogs and how to behave safely and appropriately around them
- Greater access to the community, with the presence of the dog giving students the opportunity to go out on short trips outside of school
- A range of individual benefits for children who are working towards personal goals

We are really looking forward to Winnie supporting some of our children after half term. Here is a photograph of the new member of the team and hopefully you'll see her soon.



Yours sincerely

*N. Huxley*

Nick Huxley  
Headteacher

