



# A Chetwynd Dog

A furry friend to support in school



# Rationale

There are many benefits to having a dog in school, including:



A CHILD WHO  
CONNECTS TO  
**A DOG**  
CONNECTS TO  
THE WORLD

- Improved behaviour and concentration, reduced stress and improved self-esteem
- Encouraging participation and expression in more withdrawn children
- fostering a sense of responsibility
- Social development – they have a calming effect on pupils, particularly those with behavioural or learning difficulties
- Encouraging respect and thereby improving pupils' relationships with each other, parents and teachers
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life
- Motivating pupils to think and learn as children have a high level of natural interest in animals
- Helping work undertaken with the most vulnerable children and educational improvements with low achievers





## Bark and Read

Helping children to build confidence in reading – reading programmes with dogs are working wonders with some pupils



# Bark and Read



- Children who experience embarrassment when reading aloud to an adult feel much less nervous when reading to a dog as they have no fear that the dog will correct them
- Dogs are used to encourage struggling readers to practise, children find social support and peer interaction
- Dogs are incredibly calm and happy to have children read to them, or to join a group of children in the library whilst they are having a reading session
- Dogs give unconditional acceptance which is crucial for struggling readers, not making fun of them when they make mistakes whilst reading
- Dogs are amazing listeners, providing children with a sense of comfort and love
- Research has proved that children who to read to dogs show an increase in reading levels, word recognition, a higher desire to read and write and an increase in intra and interpersonal skills with the peers they mix with



# Case Study

**'Therapeutic effect'**

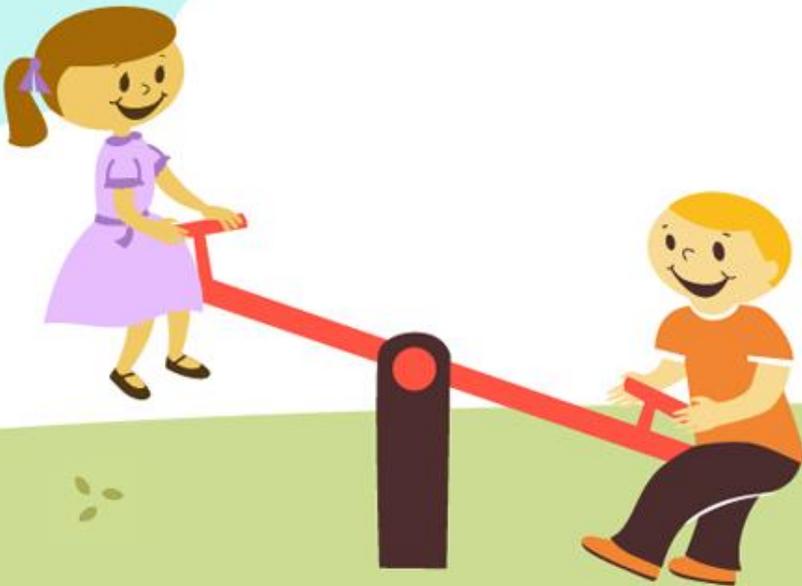
**Lynda Morgan, principal of Mayfields School in Corby, Northamptonshire, for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties, said having trained dogs in schools was particularly helpful for children who are reluctant readers or who have low self-esteem.**

**She said: "About 70% of the children at our school have difficulty with literacy. It can be speaking or reading. They go into the library with Danny and simply read to him. Their self-esteem has come on tremendously and their reading ages have come on too.**

**"There is a therapeutic effect too, which helps children get over any emotional trouble if something has gone wrong during the school day."**

**"Every school should have one," she said.**

**BBC News – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014**



# Day to day safety

The dog will be owned by the Whileys

It will be a Labrador due to excellent temperament and ability to be trained

Visitors and new pupils will be informed of the dog on arrival

The dog will not be allowed in school if it is unwell

The dog will be kept on a lead when moving about the school

He will have a special area designated for toilet stops

He will have a cage in Mrs Whiley's room as a retreat and safe zone



# Pupils will:

NOT have sole responsibility for, or be left alone with the dog

Meet the dog in small groups at first

Always remain calm and be gentle

NOT put their face near to the dog's face

NOT disturb the dog whilst he is eating or sleeping

Learn about how dogs express their feeling through body language

Wash their hands after contact with the dog

Children will have the opportunity to have lunchtime walks to the park



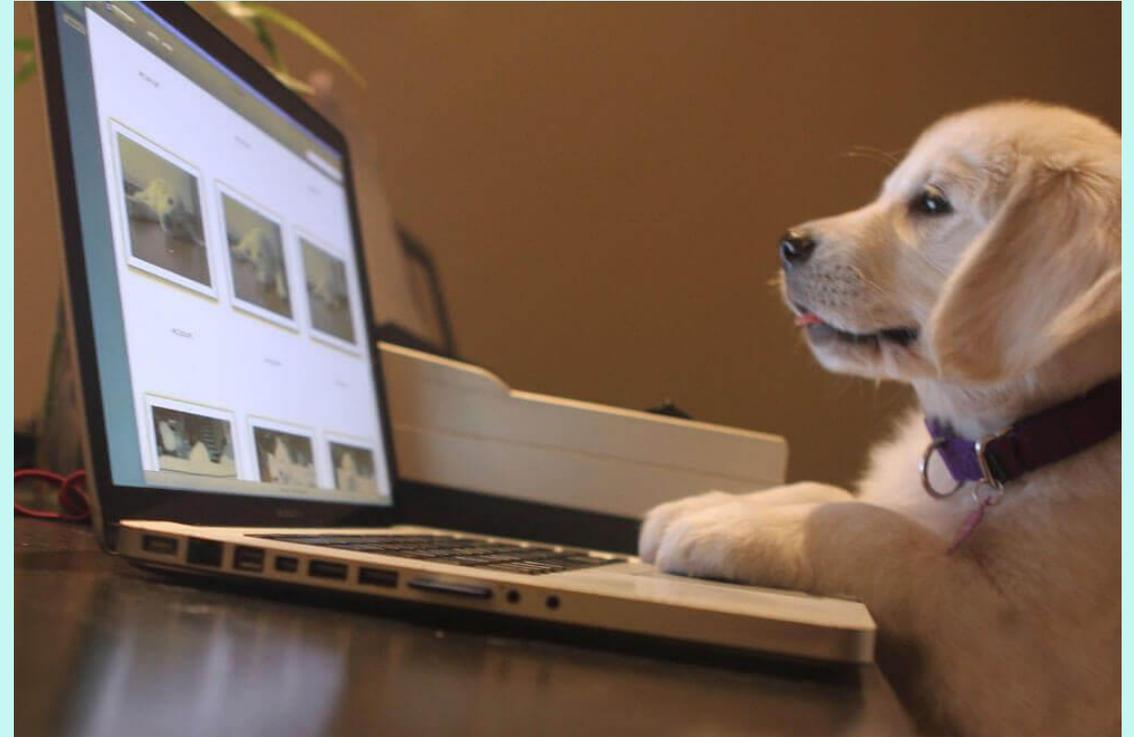
# Pets as Therapy Dog – Community links

- At 9 months old, we can get our dog assessed as a PAT dog
- If he passes, it will create an excellent link with the local community, particularly the Herons



# The Dog Blog

- I plan to write a blog from the dog's perspective every day
- This will encourage children to go online and find out what the dog has been up to that day and see if they get a mention!
- Reluctant readers may be more willing to read a blog they can relate to rather than a book
- Hopefully not only will increase engagement in reading but also writing, with children having the opportunity to respond to the dog's comments



# Wellbeing

- F2 have received emails from parents stating how much their children enjoy having a pet in the classroom, particularly army children who are not able to have a pet at home
- Having a ruff day? Research has shown that canine colleagues can improve staff wellbeing and productivity
- Dogs have also gained popularity with colleges during gruelling exam weeks. With their sanity hanging by a thread, students can find comfort in the dogs' soft fur and open faces.
- In 2001, for instance, scientists found people with high blood pressure could better control their physiological health during times of stress if they owned a pet. Petting a dog (or any pettable animal, for that matter) can help reduce the body's production of cortisol — the so-called stress hormone — and increase levels of oxytocin, which promotes feelings of bonding.



At Nestlé, staff say the dogs help them relax. “Sometimes something will stress me out at work and I’ll go: ‘Right, I need some puppy love. And off I go to find a dog’,” says Zoe Green, a former veterinary nurse who works in the Purina team. “A few minutes later, I’m a different person.”



# Sherlock

