



Ivy Lane School

Ivy Lane, Chippenham,
Wiltshire, SN15 1HE.

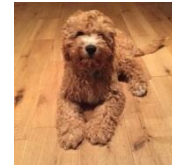
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Headteacher: Mr C Cannings

Wednesday 9th November 2016.



Dear Parents,

Re: Bertie the school dog.

As mentioned in a recent newsletter, we are really excited to announce the imminent arrival of 'Bertie' our school dog. Bertie is a Cavapoo (a low allergy breed) and is being trained to be in a busy school and be with children. Only children whose parents have given permission will be able to interact with the dog (see over page). Children with permission will not have access to Bertie unless accompanied by an adult and he will be kept on a lead while around children.

Bertie is a school dog; this does not mean any other dogs will be allowed on the school site, as is the case currently.

We understand that not everyone appreciates pets and like many activities there are risks with children and pets. We have completed risk assessments, followed extensive advice and visited other schools with dogs to minimise any potential issues.

Bertie will be spending 'special time' with groups or individual children doing certain activities and learning. He will provide the children with real life experiences of caring for a pet, as well as being a 'distraction' for a child if they need one - which many children do occasionally throughout their time in primary school during significant or unexpected events.

Bertie will travel into and home from school with Miss Barrass. Bertie will not attend school full time (he's not 5 years old yet!) but will be coming in regularly. He is still a puppy and is attending training sessions beginning with basic training and then on to a more intermediate level as he develops and grows.

Bertie has a special area in the school (which children cannot access) so he too can have quiet time, fresh air, stretch his four legs and do his business! He will also spend some time in the main office or with children doing activities inside and on the field. Children will not be involved in poop-a-scooping - but may get involved with other pet care activities.

There are people who have allergies to pets and this why we got a Cavapoo (a low allergy breed) to minimise any potential issues. However, Bertie will still be restricted to certain areas of the school. If allergies are a medical issue for your child, please tick the ALLERGY box as described overleaf and contact the school office by e-mail on: admin@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk with the specifics so we are aware of the exact details.

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To give (or refuse) permission for your child to interact with Bertie, please log in to your Scopay account: <https://www.scopay.com/ivylane> and click on the blue link for: '[Bertie The School Dog](#)', this will then take you to another screen which shows three tick boxes. One is a YES, one is a NO and the third is for any ALLERGY. After ticking the appropriate boxes, please ensure you then press the **Save** button (it is vital to press **Save** after - you will not get any acknowledgement that you have, but it does work). As per previous page, if you've ticked the ALLERGY box, please send an e-mail to give us the specific details.

Only those children whose parents have given permission (ie: ticked YES) will have access to Bertie later this term and in the future.

We very much look forward to Bertie becoming a part of the school and what we can offer as a school.

Should you have any query about the dog, please do speak to Miss Barrass or myself.

Chris Canning

Mr C Cannings
Headteacher

