



All Saints CE Primary School and Nursery

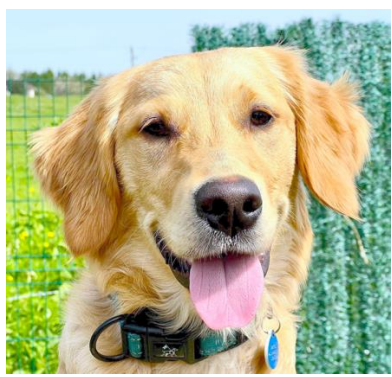
www.allsaintscephprimaryschoolandnursery.co.uk

'Learning for life, building a firm foundation'



Dear families,

As you are all aware, we are proud of building a strong sense of community and belonging at All Saints Primary School. Over the last few weeks, we have been considering an opportunity we have to have a school dog. As part of this work, we have talked to other primary and secondary schools that already have a school dog, to evaluate and plan for this in the best possible way. We have recently discussed the option of a school dog with our governors and we are now in a position to introduce you to:

	Name:	Honey
	Age:	3
	Breed:	Golden Retriever
	Likes:	Fusses, ear scratches, belly rubs, biscuits and squeaky toys.

The research is very compelling and has shown that there are distinctive benefits for the whole school community if this is structured in the right way. Honey will be starting her new role at All Saints from November 2025. We see enormous benefits that caring for animals will bring to our students. This has already been established and proven with our school guinea pigs, Oreo and Hobnob. We have developed a robust risk assessment and routines to keep all members of our community safe and to ensure that Honey is happy and secure. Of course, we have ensured the safety of students as a key priority. Honey is a golden retriever, who is trained and used to children.

Proposed benefits will include:

- Learning, including reading and literacy and some curriculum involvement and benefits.
- Self-esteem and interest for all students, especially for some of our most vulnerable groups.
- Anger management, bereavement and reducing stress.
- Developing responsibility.
- Love and support for groups of students.
- Knowledge and understanding of animals.

Frequently asked questions:

- Honey was trained as a puppy with Mrs Seaman and a professional dog trainer.
- Children will not be left unsupervised with Honey and there will always be adult supervision from staff who are experienced with dogs.
- **No child, or adult, will need to come into contact with Honey unless they want to.**
- Honey will be fully insured in and out of school. She is up to date with her vaccinations and will continue to be so.
- Honey's toilet breaks will not be taken anywhere near where children play such as the playground and school field. Her toileting will take place off the school site. Staff taking her will of course ensure they are responsible and clean up after her!
- Hand cleansing facilities are available after contact with Honey.
- Honey will not be left at school overnight and will be assured of a loving home after the "day job" is over! She lives permanently with Mrs Seaman.

We believe that through speaking to schools who already have a school dog and having researched this project fully, having a school dog with us at All Saints will provide significant benefits. We are looking forward to gradually introducing Honey to our school. If you would like any further details, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will keep you up to date with progress and hope you will get the chance to meet Honey at All Saints in the future.

I appreciate that there may be some students, parents and staff who do not wish, or are not able to be involved with our school dog. If, for any reason, you wish to ensure this is the case, please contact the school office to let them know. We will then collate a list to ensure that we are all aware of who has opted out. If you would like to opt out, please email admin3101@welearn365.com to inform the school office with your child's name and their class of your preference.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Harrison

Headteacher

