



Bramley C of E Infant and Nursery School
An Academy in the Good Shepherd Trust

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Executive Headteacher: Miss Anna De Filippis



Tuesday 5th November 2024

Dear families,

Pets as Therapy Consent

Bramley C of E Infants School are delighted to share with you that we have registered for Pets as Therapy: READ 2 DOGS Programme, which is designed to give pupils opportunities to increase their confidence of, and enjoyment of reading.

Research has shown that therapy dogs in schools can increase reading skills, as well as contribute to social and emotional development. Mrs. Johnson and Ralph (the dog) are registered as a team through Pets as Therapy. As a part of this, all dogs must be tested and evaluated by the Pets as Therapy Charity. A dog must be a minimum of one (1) year of age and have a sound temperament. Each dog must pass a temperament evaluation for suitability to become a therapy dog. To find out more about the Pets as Therapy Charity please see their website - <https://petsastherapy.org/> . The school have risked assessed this activity and any parent wishing to see the risk assessment can request one from the school office.

Ralph is a two year old Golden Doodle / Australian Labradoodle, he is a hypoallergenic dog. He will be visiting school on Friday afternoons.

In order for Ralph to be able to see as many children as possible we are conducting an opt-out method of permission from families. Therefore, if you **DO NOT** wish your child to see or interact with Ralph the dog please email the school's SENCO and Assistant Head (Mrs Strickland) – inclusion@bramley.surrey.sch.uk. If you do not email Mrs Strickland, we will assume consent for your child/ren.

Not all children can see Ralph as he is only in school for an hour a week, but we hope by using this method of consent it will be easier for more children to see him. Families will be made aware if their child has been chosen to see Ralph.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Strickland.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Naomi Strickland

Assistant Head and SENCO

