



Oakfield CE (Aided) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Vikki Reader

April 21st 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

PETS AS THERAPY DOG

We are pleased to introduce Sidney Gerty as Oakfield's Therapy Dog

Sid is 12 months old, a Yorkshire Terrier/Poodle Cross (Yorkipoo), and has been training with Carol Court at Ability Dogs for Young People since he was 3 months old. He's a very relaxed, laid back pup, who has taken to training like a duck to water.

Sid will be working with Mrs Gerty (his mummy) and some of the Elsa children, helping to support and bring a sense of calm. The rest of the children within the school will have an opportunity to meet Sid and spend some time with him too. The benefits to having a therapy dog in an educational setting evidence:

- An increase in school attendance.
- Children grow in confidence.
- Decreases in learner anxiety behaviours resulting in improved learning outcomes, such as increases in reading and writing levels.
- Positive changes towards learning and improved motivation, teach empathy and appropriate interpersonal skills.
- Help individuals develop social skills
- Improve individuals' skills to pick up social cues imperative to human relationships.

During his time in the building and around the school grounds, Sid will never be off the lead, he will always be with Mrs Gerty when meeting the children and will have plenty of rest time. He will have his own toileting area that will be kept clean and disinfected after use.

Sidney doesn't shed hair, so there is no need to worry about uniform being spoiled with dog hair or allergies.

Sidney will continue to train at Ability Dogs for the foreseeable future, so we can get the absolute best from him in order for him to support the children that need him.

The children will be expected to behave in a certain manner when they are around Sid. They will be expected not to crowd around him, be too loud or touch him without permission.

We hope having Sid in the building will not only bring joy to our children, but to our adults too! (There's nothing like a fluffy cuddle)

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Gerty
ELSA