



5th September 2023

Ted – School Dog

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Firstly, welcome to the new school year. I am aware that some of you will have already heard of our new school dog 'Ted'.

Ted the school dog is a new recruit here at school, it has been something that has been used increasingly in other school settings, with great success and something we think will further support the wellbeing of both pupils and staff at Codsall Middle School.

The dog we have selected for this role is called Ted. When not in school, Ted will live with me and my family as a pet, I have two young children myself and therefore he will be brought up in a busy household environment, he will be responsibly owned and very well cared for. He will receive regular veterinary check-ups and immunisations as part of an ongoing care package.

To prepare, we have visited other settings to see how they manage it on a day to day basis and we have been in consultation with a number of sources. Training providers have given us their time to understand the impacts this might have and we have consulted the on-line information from The Dogs 'Trust to gain an insight into the benefits and responsibilities of having a School Dog. We will continue to use these sources together with close communication with our school partners to ensure that we are both responsible for the welfare of a dog and that the pupils get the maximum benefit from such an amazing resource.

Some key considerations

1. To have a dog that the children could interact with, developing children socially and emotionally as well as the learning and achievement of the pupils.
2. A chance to make Codsall Middle School a wonderful learning environment for life skills with Ted being a full part of the school community
3. For the school to have access to a dog that was able to live as naturally as conditions would allow, being familiar with the school environment from a young age
4. For Ted to be properly cared for so that he can enjoy his time at school

The top priority for any dog has been to ensure that the temperament of the dog is suitable for interaction with children. Care was taken by myself to find experienced and regulated breeders who breed in a home environment so the puppy developed good attachment and obedience behaviours.

Ted is a lurcher (whippet poodle cross) and has been carefully selected as a suitable breed for this type of school environment. Whippets are a small companion breed being a calm, faithful dog and Ted has a rough, hypoallergenic coat from his poodle genes. They are very playful, easy-going and love people. They are generally a quiet, intelligent and polite breed and like lots of physical and emotional attention. Poodles not only have an amazing none shedding coat but they are highly intelligent and eager to learn, which lends it perfectly to a role within the school environment. Ted will undergo basic puppy training and then move onto the suitable school dog training programme.

When will Ted be at school?

Ted made his initial visits to school late in the summer term. He is now going to be attending school at outdoor points during the day on Tuesdays and Fridays.

We are very early in the journey of having a school dog and therefore we can listen and respond to any concerns you may have. Further information and opportunities to discuss will be made available as we move through the process.

Please do feel free to email me and I will happily make contact to discuss things should you feel you have any further questions. My email address is senco@cmat.academy

Kind Regards,

R. Connolly

Ruth Connolly
CMAT SENCO