

Wednesday 14th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to announce that we will be introducing our own school dog who has joined The Dog Mentor Programme. The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.

Over the last nine years, The Dog Mentor programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills. These improvements then result in improved academic achievement.

Lauren Murphy will be officially introducing her dog, Sid, to the school from Thursday 15th September. We know that The Dog Mentor Programme will bring a positive influence into the school environment as a whole and look forward to the impact The Dog Mentor programme will have on our children. Full training has been given to both Sid and our staff that will work with Sid in order to ensure that the welfare of everyone involved is maintained as a top priority.

Please feel free to visit The Dog Mentor's website and Facebook page for more details and to see some of the schools that have introduced their dogs into school:

www.thedogmentor.co.uk

www.facebook.com/thedogmentor

You can also visit our school website <https://www.woodhillschool.co.uk/news/?pid=24&nid=1> to see a FAQ a draft school dog policy as well as regular updates about Sid's work in the school. We also have a comprehensive risk assessment which was created as part of the rigorous training and bespoke to Sid. If you wish to see this, we can arrange a time to go through it with you

I hope that you share our excitement. Please feel free to contact Mr Phillips or Miss Murphy with any questions you may have.

Yours Sincerely,

With best wishes



Mr O Phillips
Headteacher

