



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

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22 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to share some exciting news with you. For the past year, Miss Williams has been training her Labrador dog, Lily, to be suitable to come and visit us at Dashwood Banbury Academy. We are very pleased to say that Lily will begin visiting us from Tuesday 29th September.



To begin with, Lily will be spending time just with Miss Williams out of class one afternoon a week getting used to being in a new environment. She will be joining us with a view to eventually visit children 1:1, in small groups and some classes. When she is ready to meet pupils we will inform you directly, especially if she is working with pupils on a 1-1 basis. Until then, she will be in a separate room to pupils then after a welcome virtual assembly, she will be walked around the edge of the school groups so she is not spending time where the pupils play for health and safety.

Miss Williams took Lily to puppy socialisation classes, which she passed, and has been going to obedience classes on a weekly basis for the past year, working towards her Kennel Club Good Citizen certificates and is part of the kennel club approved safe and sound programme. Lily is working towards her silver certificate and will be taking the exams when the training club allows visiting examiners to come and assess. Lily is a very gentle, obedient and people-oriented dog who loves to cuddle and play. We know she will make a great addition to the Dashwood staff!

At Dashwood, we have extensively researched the benefits of having a dog in school and we are thrilled to be able to share these with the children. Evidence indicates that having a dog in school can:

- have a calming effect on pupils;
- improve behaviour and concentration, reduce stress and anxiety and improve self-esteem;
- encourage expression, participation and confidence for all children;
- foster a sense of responsibility;
- motivate pupils to think and to learn, as most children have a high level of natural interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals;
- encourage respect and thereby improving pupils' relationships with each other, parents and teachers;
- teach children to nurture and respect life;
- stimulate memory, problem-solving and game-playing;
- help work undertaken with the most vulnerable children;
- help children build confidence in reading;
- improve attendance;



Talk for Writing



Eco-Schools
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Safeguarding Children in Banbury
Aspiration - Collaboration - Excellence



School Guide
co.uk



SCHOOL GAMES
SILVER
2017/18



SILVER
QUALITY
MARK
2015-17



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- further promote our wellbeing agenda for all pupils, which is at the heart of everything we do at Dashwood.

We hope the children will gain a great deal of enjoyment from seeing Lily and that she becomes an established part of life at Dashwood Banbury Academy. There will be absolutely no expectation that all children will have contact with Lily and if you have any queries or questions then you can contact the school and we will get back to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ARogers". The letters are cursive and connected, with a large 'A' and 'R'.

Amy Rogers

Principal