

Plumcroft Primary School

Plum Lane Campus
Plum Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 3HW
Tel: 020 8854 1308

Vincent Road Campus
Vincent Road, Woolwich, London, SE18 6RG
Tel: 0208 317 2518

Headteacher: Mr Richard Slade

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Annette Graney

Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that we will have a new member of our school community from next week. We have decided to have a school dog as part of the on-going provision for wellbeing and mental health.

Inca, our school dog, will live with Mrs Burton and come in to school every day to be alongside the children. There will be a period of integration into the school, with the children taught how to act near the dog, as well as the dog receiving extensive training.

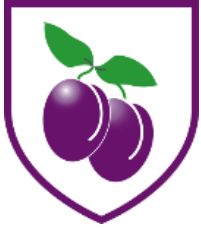
There are many benefits of having a school dog, as detailed below -

- A calming effect on pupils;
- Improved behaviour and concentration, reduced stress and improved self-esteem;
- Encouraging expression, participation and confidence for all children;
- Fostering a sense of responsibility;
- Motivating pupils to think and to learn;
- Developing an enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals;
- Encouraging respect and thereby improving pupils' relationships with each other, parents and teachers;
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life;
- Helping children build confidence in reading;
- Improving attendance;
- Helping overcome a fear of dogs;
- Developing the understanding of unconditional love;
- Supporting with the development of cooperative play;
- Supporting children to develop empathy;



How has the school planned for this?

- Rigorous research has been carried out to ensure that we have selected the most suitable breed of dog for our school, pupils and staff;



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- Prior to purchasing the puppy members of staff have visited the home of the breeder to ensure that the puppy's temperament, and that of its parents, is suitable for interaction with children;
- A full risk assessment and policy has been written and will be available on the website;
- All contact will be carefully planned and children will not be left unsupervised with the dog;
- When not working, the dog will be based in one of the school offices.

What about allergies?

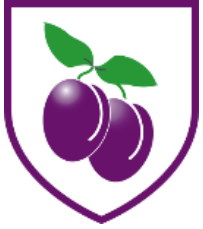
- All areas of the school are vacuumed and surfaces are wiped down daily;
- Movement around the school will be controlled;
- The dog will be regularly groomed;
- Any child working with the dog will wash their hands.

How can I find out more information?

- We will aim to keep parents and children up to date on the progress of the school dog in the school newsletter. I know there will be lots of parents and carers who support the new addition to our school, however if there are any further questions please talk to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Slade



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