



Wensum Junior School - An Evolution Academy Trust School

Headteacher: Ms V McConnell

Deputy Headteacher: Mr P Hubery

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Dear families,

I am writing to inform you that from Monday 20th January we will be starting a two-week trial with a school dog. Wiggins is an ex-racing Greyhound (Dunham Wiggins is his racing name) and he is four years old. He has a lovely, calm temperament, is well trained on the lead, and is used to being around children. He is currently awaiting adoption through Yarmouth Greyhound Finders in Hainford.

He will live with me and come into school each day. Initially he will remain with me in the office, though I have to say, I have had loads of requests from staff already! Until he is really confident around us he will be muzzled and all contact he has with children will be carefully supervised. He is vaccinated, insured, tagged and neutered.

Many schools now have a dog – they are often referred to as ‘therapy’ dogs – and there is a growing bank of research and evidence that points to the positive benefits that they can bring to children in particular and the school environment in general. This will be a two-week trial to see whether he is suited to us and us to him. As you know schools are busy, noisy and unpredictable environments so we need to ensure that it is a place that will make him happy. Please talk at home about the importance of being calm and respectful around the dog to help him get settled. If, after two weeks, things are looking good, then we will seek to adopt him.

If your child is allergic to dogs or fur, or is known to be anxious around dogs then please complete the form and **return to school by Monday 20th January** so we can manage it accordingly. The first few days will be very low key for all concerned as we help him settle in. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss further, then please see me on the gate.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hubery'.

Peter Hubery
Deputy Headteacher

PTO...



Dunham Wiggins (school dog) allergies and anxieties

If your child is allergic to dogs or is anxious around them then please complete the reply slip below by ticking in the appropriate box. Please return to school by **Monday 20th January**.

Child's name:		
Class:		
	Yes	No
My child is allergic to dogs		
My child is anxious around dogs		
I am happy for my child to have supervised access to the dog		

