



## Wensum Junior School - An Evolution Academy Trust School

*Headteacher: Ms V McConnell*

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11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear families

I am writing to remind you and inform new parents that our school has a school dog. Wiggins (known as Wiggy) 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 lives with me and comes into school each day. He will remain with me in the office. 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 pointed to the positive benefits that they can bring to children in particular and the school environment in general. Please talk at home about the importance of being calm and respectful around Wiggy.

If you are new to Wensum this September and 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 so we can manage it accordingly. If your child was with us last year and you contacted us with any allergies or concerns, you will not need to contact us.

### **Wiggy and Covid19**

There is no specific guidance around dogs and Covid. Our original risk assessment, however, stresses the importance of good hand hygiene when handling the dog – before and after. This will be maintained, and as always, access to the dog will supervised to ensure that his is observed. Currently, Wiggy is not in general circulation as we settle back in. If you have any concerns and would like to discuss further then please arrange a time for us to talk.

Kind regards

Peter Hubery  
Deputy Headteacher



Dunham Wiggins (school dog) allergies and anxieties

If your child is allergic to dogs or is anxious around them please complete the reply slip below by ticking in the appropriate box. Please return to school as soon as possible

<b>Child's Name:</b>		
<b>Class:</b>		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
My child is allergic to dogs		
My child is anxious around dogs		
I am happy for mychild to have supervised access to the dog		

