

UPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. M Lewis
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Tel: 01843 861393
Part of the Viking Academy Trust



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to let you know that the Senior Leadership Team at Upton Junior School has been considering the possibility of getting a dog who would work in our school as part of the on-going provision for wellbeing and mental health. I am pleased to announce that we will be starting this from next week.

There will be a period of integration into the school and over the next few weeks, he will be slowly introduced to the children.

I understand there may be some questions:

What are the benefits of a school dog?

- 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, as most children have a high level of natural interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals;
- Encouraging respect & thereby improving pupils' relationships with each other, parents & teachers
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life;
- Helping work undertaken with the most vulnerable children;
- Helping children build confidence in reading;
- Improving attendance;
- Further promote our 'Well Being' agenda for pupils.

How has the school planned for this?

- A full risk assessment and policy has been written and will be available on the website
- When not working, the dog will be based in one of the school offices
- All contact will be carefully planned and children will not be left unsupervised with the dog

What about allergies?

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

One Childhood One Chance

Upton Junior School is operated by Viking Academy Trust which is a charitable company limited and registered in England and Wales with Company Number 09449979. Registered Office is at Chilton Primary School, Chilton Lane, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 0LQ

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How can I find out more information?

We aim to put a regular blog on our website to keep parents and children up to date on the progress of the school dog.

In the meantime let me introduce you.....



Our dog, Pablo, is a 2 year old Chorkie who will be used to support all of the children within our school. Over the rest of the term, he'll need to spend time in school getting used to his surroundings, and all of us!

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 on the school gate or write to me in person.

Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the dog is invited to write to me to inform me of your wishes

I look forward to updating you on his progress.

Miss Arthur

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