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**THE BULWELL
ACADEMY**
*Creative
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9 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Therapy dog - Barry

As you will be aware, we have taken on our very own 'School Dog'. Barry has been with us now since June and is currently in training to become a *Therapy Dog*.

Barry is a Bossi-Poo; known for their hypoallergenic fur. He is an extremely friendly puppy who loves to spend time with people. He is in school every day, and lives with Miss Carrick in the evenings, at weekends and in the holidays.

Part of Barry's role involves him working with selected children, in controlled environments. Should your child be selected in the future to work with Barry we will require your consent and will, of course give you advanced warning. At this current time, Barry is still in training and will just be working 1:1 around school on Mondays. He will remain in school for the whole of Monday so students may encounter him around school. We will be delivering assemblies to all year groups to make clear the expectations around interacting with Barry, such as:

- The child must not approach the school dog without an adult being present.
- The child must approach the school dog slowly and calmly (with voice and movement)
- Keep noise levels to a minimum, with low voices, during interactions with the school dog.
- The child is responsible for washing their hands with soap and water, after interaction with the school dog.

Only the authorised adult will be allowed to participate in the dog's toileting needs, and any issuing of food.

If at any time, the child feels unhappy or uncomfortable, they must inform the authorised adult immediately, when interactions will stop.



Attached to this letter, is the Risk Assessment for the School Dog. Please read through this and let us know if you have any concerns.

<https://bit.ly/TherapyDogRiskAssessment>

Whilst he is in training, Barry will be wearing a yellow harness and lead, which indicates to staff and students that he is 'working' and should not interact with him. If he is on his blue lead, students are more than welcome to interact and approach Barry but must check with his handler first.

If your child has any allergies and/or you would prefer them not to be in contact with Barry, then please could you forward this information on to us at school and we will ensure this is incorporated in to planning and timetabling of his sessions.

To ensure everyone who is on the school site is aware that Barry is in school that day, there will be a poster placed in reception. This will once again remind all visitors and students of the guidance mentioned above and in assemblies.

We are all incredibly excited for Barry to become a part of the Bulwell Academy family as we enter a new era!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Irons', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

**Mr Matt Irons
Acting Head of School**