



Rufford Church of England Primary School



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Headteacher: Mrs R.H. Elleray

'Together in Faith and Learning'



17th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited to announce that we are getting our own school dog and are delighted to formally introduce **Barney**, a Cockapoo who will be starting with us in September following a successful socialisation and training period.

It is intended that he will be in school most days of the week.

Dogs in schools have many known benefits: They are used to support children with social and emotional learning needs, which in turn can assist with literacy development. Research into the effects of dogs in schools is showing a range of benefits including: increase in school attendance and development in confidence.

One vital role **Barney** will perform will be working with Mrs Coogan and Mrs Murphy during pastoral support sessions in school to support the emotional needs of children we have identified as needing crucial support. This support has developed over the last few years and is now a highly effective resource supporting our children struggling with a range of issues such as their mental health, their home circumstances, friendships and bereavement amongst other things.

Further information can be found via <https://www.dogsforgood.org/community-dog/community-dogs-schools/community-dog-for-schools-benefits/>

Our 'School Dog' policy is available to view alongside on the school website <https://www.rufford.lancs.sch.uk/admin/sites/page/our-school/school-policies> This will hopefully provide all the information that you need and also includes some frequently asked questions. If you do not wish your child to come into contact with our dog or have any concerns, please contact Mrs Shaw by email (bursar@rufford.lancs.sch.uk) or call into the school office.

We hope that the children will love having **Barney** in school and that his presence will have a positive effect on school in many different ways.

Kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Elleray
Headteacher



'Let your light shine in the world' (Matthew 5:16)