



Woodlane High School

achieving success in a nurturing environment

Du Cane Road, London W12 0TN

Headteacher: Claire Maynard Tel: 020 8743 5668 Fax: 020 8743 9138 Email: admin@woodlane.lbhf.sch.uk

10th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Woodlane Therapy Dogs

With the success of our piloted Therapy Dog programme over the past academic year, Woodlane High School is delighted to be continuing this programme for the foreseeable future. Pandora and Otis have helped support many of our pupils in times of stress and anxiety, helped to improve behaviour, teach responsibility and build confidence.

Otis will continue to be at school on a Monday and Pandora on a Friday. Pandora and Otis will be accompanied by their handlers Ms Maynard (Pandora) and Mr Morgan (Otis) at all times during the sessions. We will continue to offer three therapy dog sessions on each of these days:

- Walking the dog (lunchtimes)
- Playing with the dog
- Spending time with the dog

Additional reading opportunities maybe added at a later date.

If your child would like to take part and/or continue to take part in the programme please indicate below.

Providing consent for your child to take part will enable them to attend any of the dog therapy sessions or interactions during the entire time they attend Woodlane. We will not ask you for consent again. However, if you wish to withdraw consent at any time, you may do so by communicating with Mr Morgan. If your child does not wish to take part at this point in time but chooses to at a later date your child can request another letter from the school office.

Please visit our website for more details on the dogs and the benefits of therapy dogs and should you have any questions please call Mr Morgan on the school number.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Morgan
Deputy Headteacher

I give consent for my child to attend therapy dog sessions and participate in the interactions detailed above: **YES/NO**

Child's name: _____ Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer)

Concerns:





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Woodlane High School Therapy Dogs

Pandora and Otis

Pandora: Is a 3 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who is owned and handled by Ms Maynard.

Otis: Is a 2 ½ year old Cavachon who is owned and handled by Mr Morgan.

They are both very gentle, exceptionally friendly and love spending time with people.

Purpose:

- Dogs teach pupils compassion, just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain.
- Dogs teach pupils responsibility by having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give pupils a sense of importance and satisfaction they can't get from school or other chores.
- Dogs teach pupils about socialisation, like most of us dogs are social animals who enjoy attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, pupils will learn to better socialise with each other.
- Dogs teach pupils patience as they do not always do as they are told the first time. Dogs help pupils to develop care, consideration and empathy.
- Dogs promote wellbeing and the enjoyment at being at school. A greater enjoyment of being at school will create more willingness to learn and participate.
- Dogs can increase confidence, enjoyment and progress when reading, as research has shown the benefits of pupils reading aloud to dogs, which reduce anxiety, increase fluency and improved confidence.
- Dogs are fun, they greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer pupils up even on a very bad day.



Many people have studied dogs in an attempt to decipher their behaviour and understand their abilities to improve learning and children's socialisation. However, you just have to witness the interactions between dogs and children to realise the potential for greatness.

Guidelines to interaction with the school Therapy Dogs:

- Under no circumstances will pupils have close interaction with the therapy dogs unless the school has permission from parents/carers.
- Once permission has been given no pupil shall be forced to interact with the therapy dogs if this makes them feel unhappy.
- At all times interaction with the therapy dogs must be controlled and safe for adults, pupils and the school dogs themselves.
- If the guidelines are not followed interaction with the therapy dogs will be stopped immediately. At all times of interaction the handler will be present who leads the interaction.

