

11th September 2026
CGr/SSn



Dear Parent/Carer,

School Dog Mentor – Information for Parents and Carers

As we begin the new academic year and welcome new pupils and families to The Malling School, we would like to remind our school community about our school dog mentor and ensure that all parents and carers are aware of the arrangements we have in place.

Our school dog mentor forms part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the wellbeing and development of our pupils. Research and experience from other schools have shown that well-trained dogs can have a positive impact on children's learning and wellbeing, including providing comfort and emotional support, encouraging positive social interaction, helping to reduce anxiety and improve confidence, and supporting the development of empathy, responsibility and care.

Our dog mentor works under the supervision of trained staff at all times. Health, safety and welfare are of the utmost importance, and appropriate policies and risk assessments are in place to ensure a safe and positive experience for everyone. The dog is not left unsupervised with pupils, and interactions are structured and voluntary.

We appreciate that some pupils may be nervous around dogs, may have allergies, or that parents/carers may prefer their child not to have direct contact with the dog. **If you have not previously informed us of any concerns, or if your child's circumstances have changed, please let us know so that we can make the necessary arrangements.** This is particularly important for families who have recently joined the school.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of our school dog mentor arrangements, please contact us at helen.johnson@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk.

We are pleased to have our school dog mentor as part of The Malling School community and look forward to the continued positive contribution they make to pupils' learning and wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms C Graham
Assistant Headteacher
SENco

