



Otto Last September



Otto Now

Just to let you know that MBA has decided to resume its work with Otto, our school dog. Otto has not been to school for a whole term but is very keen to be back. A full risk assessment has been completed which will be available.

For our newer families, Otto is a Labrador and lives at home with a member of the senior leadership team. Whilst Otto is growing up fast, he is still only a puppy and is working towards being an assistance or therapy dog.

Why have a dog in school?

- Dogs teach children about responsibility – by children having to remember to feed and give water to the dog it can give them a sense of importance and satisfaction that they may not get from other responsibilities.
- Dogs teach children patience – they do not always do as they are told first time!
- Dogs teach children compassion – just like us dogs feel pain and emotion.
- Dogs teach children about socialisation – by the children learning how to interact with a dog they can better learn how to socialise with other children.
- Dogs are fun – they greet you with a wagging tail every day and put a smile on your face, even on a bad day.

Otto is a member of the Dog's Trust which means he has public liability insurance. This means he will be able to come into school. Otto has gone to the vet for vaccinations, flea, worm treatments and his puppy checks. Otto will be based in a Senior Leaders' Office space which is separate from the classrooms and pupils will be able to interact with him under supervision.

Otto will be in on Mondays and Tuesdays. When he is moving around the school he will be on a lead and with an adult. We hope he will be able to support pupils in school in areas such as behaviour, socialisation, emotional regulation, reading, with attendance and also being on the playground at playtimes.

With parental permission, over a period of time, children who are fearful of dogs can be supported in approaching, handling and in gaining confidence in managing their fear. We hope the children will gain a lot of enjoyment from having a school dog, certainly pupils who know Otto very much enjoy having him around.