

The Dog Mentor Affiliated School



Wednesday 24th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Dog Mentor Programme

We are pleased to announce that we will be introducing our own school dog as part of 'The Dog Mentor' programme. This programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.

Over the last nine years, 'The Dog Mentor' programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills. These improvements then result in improved academic achievement.

Mrs Lloyd will be bringing her dog, Henry, who is a Tibetan Terrier, into school soon. We envisage that 'The Dog Mentor' programme will bring a positive influence into the school environment as a whole and look forward to the impact it will have on our children. Full training has been given to both Henry and our staff that will work with him in order to ensure that the welfare of everyone involved is maintained as a top priority.

Please feel free to visit The Dog Mentor's website and Facebook page for more details and to see some of the schools that have introduced their dogs into school:

www.thedogmentor.co.uk www.facebook.com/thedogmentor

A document of FAQ is below which may be helpful to you. Please feel free to contact the school about any further details or there is something you need to discuss on: info@exeteralc.com



Exeter

a learning community

Exeter a learning community Brayford Avenue Corby Northants NN18 8DL Tel 01536 204765 Email info@exeteralc.com
Executive Principal Melanie Saunders-Short Executive Principal Matthew Shotton Head of School Scott Nicholls

I hope you are excited as we are to welcome Henry to Exeter!



Yours Sincerely,

Jennifer Doherty
Assistant Principal

Frequently Asked Questions

What if my child has a phobia of dogs?

Positive experiences of working and interacting with dogs can support children with overcoming any fears they may have. If you are concerned that your child may be worried or anxious about working with Henry, please contact at school so we can discuss your child's needs and how we can work together to find a solution.

What if my child has an allergy to dogs?

Henry is a Tibetan terrier and these dogs are hypoallergenic. This means that Henry will shed less fur than some other breeds of dogs and is therefore less likely to cause an allergy.

If your child has a dog allergy, you must contact us at school so we can discuss your child's individual requirements.

What risk assessments have been carried out and what safety measures are in place?

- Jenny Duckworth, the Dog Mentor trainer, has carried out a rigorous risk assessment around Henry's work in school. Jenny has assessed the Exeter school environment to ensure it is suitable for Henry. She has also assessed Henry's suitability to work in school as part of his training.
- Henry is a certified 'Dog Mentor'. He is of a suitable breed and temperament to work in school.
- Specific staff have been trained by Jenny Duckworth how to work with Henry and they will work with him on a day-to-day basis with the children.
- Henry will be with a member of school staff at all times.
- Henry will move around the school e.g. corridors and playgrounds, on a lead at all times.

- All school staff will be advised how to work safely and appropriately with Henry.



- All children will be taught how to work safely and appropriately with Henry.
- All visitors will be informed on arrival that we have a school dog.
- Regular veterinarian checks will be carried out for Henry.
- Hygiene measures will be followed at all times. Children and staff who have had contact with Henry will wash their hands after contact.
- Henry is insured to work in school.