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Newsletter 6

Friday 18th September 2020

**Believe and Achieve**

## Lessons Learnt

Thank you so much to everyone who has responded to the challenges of this term. We are still in uncharted waters and there are still many lessons to learn but hopefully we are getting it more right than wrong.

Below are a couple of observations you may find helpful...and save the office from answering numerous phone calls each day!

- If you have confidence that your child has just a cold. They may still come to school.
- If your child has a cold and a temperature then it is safest, **for everyone**, that you initially keep your child off and monitor. If you have any doubts that it could be anything else then they need to be tested or if they are unable to get a test, self isolate for 14 days (from the beginning of the illness).
- **IF ANYONE IN THE HOME HAS TAKEN A TEST AND YOU ARE WAITING FOR THE RESULTS, UNTIL YOU KNOW YOU THE RESULT YOU MUST SELF ISOLATE AND NOT SEND ANY CHILD TO SCHOOL.**
- Please try to keep the school informed, especially if testing is or has happened.
- Try to self distance at the beginning and end of the school day. **THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN TALKING TO STAFF. PLEASE DO YOUR UTMOST TO STAY 2 METRES APART**

## School Meals

If your child opts to have a deli bag and they have allergies, please refer back to the menus that were sent home at the beginning of term ( Newsletter 1). Have the conversation about which option is appropriate for them. The kitchen's allergy monitoring system is not as fail safe if individual children are selecting their own deli bag.

An annual reminder that our jelly is not always gelatine free. If you do have any concerns about your children choosing this option please email [admin2629@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2629@welearn365.com) with your child's allergy details.



## Nellie the School Dog

On a previous newsletter, before the summer holidays, we explained that school was in the process of planning to have a school dog. Nellie is now 6 months old and since she was 8 weeks old she has been coming into school on a daily basis. She is a Cavapoo, a cross between a King Charles Spaniel and a poodle.

She was chosen due to the breeds being renowned to have a gentle temperament and a non shedding, hypoallergenic coat. She resides with Miss Bayliss and will be in school every day. She is fully insured and will have regular checks at the vets. Nellie is fully inoculated and protected against fleas and worms.

Currently, she is housed near the office and has limited interaction with the children (although they may see her when she walks the school site and at playtimes). Some children have asked to play with her. When this happens, the number of children is limited to 2 and is always supervised by an adult.

In October, Nellie will begin her training to be a 'School Dog Mentor'. The Dog Mentor 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 five 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. Dog Mentor, Jenny Duckworth will be working with our Nellie from the week commencing 12th October 2020. We look forward to the impact "The Dog Mentor" programme will have on our children.

All the children have been introduced to Nellie this week in a virtual assembly and most are very excited to be able to have the opportunity to interact with her. There will be a Parent Mail Form coming home, which we encourage you to read and then sign whether you **do** or **do not** wish your child to have contact with the school dog.

**No child shall be forced into interaction with the school dog if this makes them feel unhappy in any way. No child will be put under pressure to visit Nellie and she will not be going into individual classrooms.**

The interaction between Nellie and the children may involve them reading to her. This has been proven to be a real success. Dogs don't judge how the children read. They don't ask questions about what has been read and it has been proven that individuals become more confident readers. If children become upset or find something challenging and need some 'time out', Nellie may provide some comfort by stroking her, playing with her or taking her for a walk.

We are confident there are huge benefits from having Nellie and am sure she will have a positive impact on the children and life at Wembrook.

