

# Alderwood Primary School

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**Executive Head Teacher:** Jo Gordon

**Co-Headteachers:** Katie Cutajar and Natasha Tilley



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31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very excited to let you know that later this term (and after we have told the children) we will be introducing a school dog to Alderwood.

We have discussed introducing a dog with local schools that already have a dog and they have shared their positive experiences including the impact on the children. Initially the dog will be in school for short sessions. Over time children will have the opportunity to care for the dog during the school day and eventually we will plan further opportunities for children to interact with the dog during the school day. Children will only care for and interact with the dog if they would like to and parents will be able to indicate if they would wish for their child not to interact with the dog.

We believe that interacting with animals can lead to an increased sense of wellbeing as well as supporting children who may be experiencing anxiety. Being responsible for an animal can develop increased sensitivity and awareness of the feelings and needs of others: animals and humans. Through caring for animals' children learn that all living things need more than just food and water for survival.

The dog will be a medium sized Labradoodle from an experienced breeder whose parentage has been chosen for excellent temperament and health credentials. Labradoodles are known for being a low shedding breed which has hypoallergenic properties. The dog will live in my family home with lots of coming and goings including interactions with children.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further then please make an appointment via the school office.

We will write again with further information and a risk assessment for you to view nearer the time of her first visit.

We are very much looking forward to introducing a dog to our school community in 2020

Thank you.

Adam Wilson

Head of School



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[www.compass-partnership.uk](http://www.compass-partnership.uk)

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Senior Executive Head Teacher of The Compass Partnership: John Camp