



Travis St Lawrence CofE Primary

Proud to be part of the Diocese of Sheffield Academy Trust

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Together we belong, believe, learn, achieve



15th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

School Dog

We are writing to let you know that the leaders and wider school team have been considering the possibility of getting a dog who would work in our school as part of the on-going provision for wellbeing and mental health, as well as helping to create a 'family feel' around school.

We are so excited to let you know that Travis has decided to take on a school dog! This decision has been made following extensive research and with previous experience of having a school dog in previous schools that we have worked in. A full risk assessment has been completed which will be available on our website.

Meet Tegwin!

Tegwin (Teg for short) is 5 years old and is a Golden Labrador who belongs to Mrs Cousins.

She is a retired guide dog who is loving retired life.

She loves walks, treats and tummy rubs.

She is very good natured and well-tempered, calm and loves cuddles.

She has first-hand experience of being around children and adults and will make an excellent school dog.



There are many benefits of having a school dog:

- A calming effect on pupils, particularly those with anxiety, behavioural or learning difficulties;
- Improved behaviour and concentration, reduced stress and improved self-esteem;
- Encouraging expression and participation in more withdrawn children;
- Fostering a sense of responsibility;
- Increasing enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals which will motivate the children to think and learn;

- Encouraging respect and thereby improving pupils' relationship with each other, parents and teachers;
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life;
- Helping work undertaken with the most vulnerable children and educational improvements with lower achievers;
- Helping children build confidence in reading;
- Helping children who suffer bereavement or who are upset in any way and in need of calm, comfort and space before being able to tell an adult what has upset them.

Tegwin is fully insured with public liability insurance and regularly goes to the vet for yearly vaccinations, along with monthly flea and worm treatments.

Tegwin will be based in the Headteachers' Office, moving between sites, which is separate from the classrooms and will always have adult supervision. The children will only be able to interact with her under strict supervision. She will slowly be integrated in to school and initially will be in school 2-3 days a week. When she is moving around the school, she will be on a lead and always with an adult.

We hope she will be able to support children in school in areas such as reading, nurture groups, with attendance and also being in the quiet areas on the playground at playtimes. She may also get to spend time in classrooms when she gets settled too as a reward!

What about allergies? On a daily basis, all areas of the school are vacuumed and surfaces disinfected. Any child working with Tegwin will wash their hands both before and after the activity.

I hope the children will gain a lot of enjoyment from having a school dog and there will be pictures on Dojo of all what she is doing! If you have any individual questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Thank you for your support

Mrs P Cousins
Headteacher