

24<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

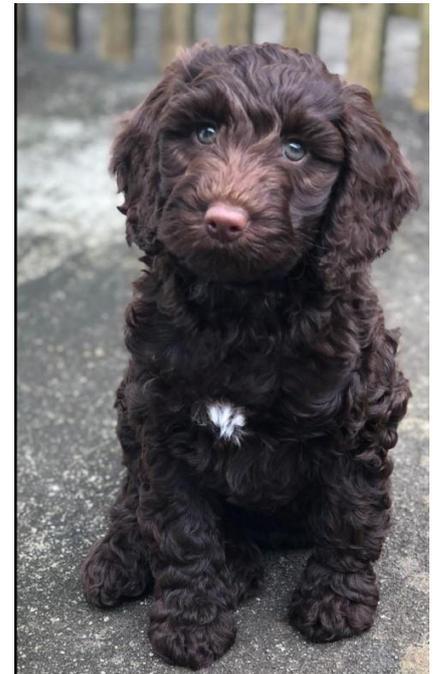
Here at Dunsford Community Academy we are incredibly fortunate to be able to introduce Mr Thorne's puppy Luna to our school.

Luna is a 12-week-old cockapoo who has just joined Mr Thorne and his family and is going to be working at school to support the wellbeing of our pupils.

A number of schools have introduced school dogs over the past few years and have seen great benefits from this. Children who do not have pets are able to experience looking after a pet in school, they can be used for comfort for children who may be having a difficult time and they have been used in many schools to help to develop confidence in reading - to just name a few benefits!

Luna is not based in the school full time and will be gradually introduced to all of our children, regardless of age, on an individual and small group basis, taking into account both the children and Luna's welfare at all times. No child will be unsupervised with Luna at any point, nor will any child be forced to spend time with her.

We are aware that there will be some concerns about having a school pet and we have carried out a risk assessment to address some of these concerns.



#### 1. Allergies

Some children in the school may have allergies which are aggravated by pet hair. As a cockapoo, Luna is hypo allergenic, she does not shed hair and is unlikely to trigger an allergic reaction in children. If your child(ren) has allergies to dogs please let Mrs Sinton know.

#### 2. Phobias

If we are aware of phobias, we will do what we can to ensure that your child is not in contact with Luna. We absolutely do not want any child to be worried about coming into contact with Luna as we recognise that this is detrimental to their welfare. If your child(ren) has a phobia to dogs please let Mrs Sinton know.



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## FLOURISHING FUTURES

In addition to this restriction, please be assured that at no time will Luna be able to 'wander' around the school, she will always be supervised by an adult. If your child has a phobia of dogs, please also let us know if you would like to work with us to try to overcome the phobia, we will be guided by you on this!

3. The safety of the children

No child will be left unsupervised with Luna at any time. Children will be taught how to touch and play with her if they wish to do so.

4. The welfare Luna

Luna will not be in school every day and will not be left unsupervised at any time.

An adult will always be supervising the safety of both the children and Luna. If Luna gets tired, then she will be able to rest. Additionally, all children will be spoken to about not feeding Luna and about how to touch and play with her safely.

If you have any further questions or concerns about your child and our school dog, please do speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment through the office to meet with myself.

Please ensure that you complete the form below and return to the office as soon as possible so that we can ensure everyone's safety and happiness alongside our four legged friend.

Yours sincerely

Mr Thorne

Trust SENDCo

