



## Ned's News March 2022



fail, Layla in Year 2 walks me and practises tricks.



It's been one whole year since I wrote to you last. I've enjoyed getting to know each other on the school gates, in the playground and in the classrooms. After my 'increase in hours' in November, I've managed to get

even more involved in school life, which I'd like to tell you about, as well as share other news.

### Do I still train?

Last year, I told you I was receiving extra training online by a man named Mike from Dark Star Agility. Guess what? Mike recently took his dog 'Spy' to Crufts and won in the singles agility. Unfortunately, Mike is unavailable to train me in person, but I am so pleased he helped me to get off to a good start. Over the next few months, Mr Jones has me booked into further Good Citizen dog training. We will look forward to welcoming the Pets as Therapy charity next year, when I hope to prove to them that I can be recognised as an official Therapy Dog.

### Who do I work with?

Well, now that I am here most days, I've managed to spend more time with children. Sometimes I help those children who need a bit of encouragement to come into school in the morning, sometimes I have planned time with children and other times I get summoned by an adult to help other children. There are also times when I just 'hang out' in the classrooms.

There are definitely a few children I've got to know well. There is Mabelle who helps me in the morning – getting me a drink and checking my food bowl. There's Nevaeh in Year 5 who likes to take me for a 'comfort break' mid-morning. At lunch time, Oliver in Year 4 usually offers to walk me. Logan from Year 1 sees me after his lunch. At 3 o'clock, without

### Will all children see me?

The short answer is "Woof"; sorry, I meant "Yes". I have been joining in with Forest School – I'm let off the lead in there. I know Rachel and Yasmin are busy, so I help to check on all the children. I've been joining playtimes even more. I've also been visiting classrooms more often and only the other day I sat in Year 2 listening to the end of day story.



I also spend time with different children and there are several who come and ask to walk me, such as Lottie in Year 2, Leo in Year 3 and Millie in Year 5. Over time, the children will get used to me and carry on their learning giving me the occasional stroke while I can just be with everyone. Not every child experiences a pet, so I am here to help children's confidence with animals as well.

### When Mr Jones isn't here, will I come to school?

The teaching team are great. They have agreed to pick me up from Mr Jones' home and take me back at the end of the day.

### Can you say hello?

Absolutely! I feel comfortable when the children go down on one knee (at my level) when they approach me. I'm quite happy with a stroke on my back and the top of my head. My name is Ned, so call me that. If you think I've done well or you are pleased, you can say "Yessss" and "Good boy" – I like that!

See you around!

