Dormansland Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs S Stokes MA
Email: head@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to offer our children a really exciting opportunity from September. One of our parents, Mrs Stevens, has had two of her dogs accepted onto the ‘Pets as Therapy READ 2 DOGS’ programme, and Dormansland has been approved as a school that will benefit from this initiative.

Pets as Therapy began in 1983, with the aim of providing approved PAT dogs or cats to visit hospitals, hospices, residential homes, mainstream and special schools, to bring support, comfort, stress relief and stimulation to people in these settings. The READ 2 DOGS programme was developed to enable children to have the opportunity to read to an audience who will reduce the stress they might feel as they read aloud.

The dogs are specially registered, and will remain on their lead and under control at all times by their owner. A member of school staff will lead the sessions and will be with the child throughout their 15 minute reading session.

We will be introducing all the children to our two approved PAT dogs, Dora and Barney, in September, and will also be selecting individual children to participate in this scheme, which will consist of ten weekly reading sessions of 15 minutes with the dog. You will be contacted directly if your child is selected to take part, along with more details about what each session will entail.

I am conscious that there may be some parents or children for whom this programme will not be suitable, due to any concerns you may have about being in close proximity to a dog during school time. If you would not like your child to take part, please can I ask you to complete and return the slip below by Friday 15th July, so that we can ensure that your child is not included in our list of possible candidates for the scheme. If I have not received a slip from you, I will assume that you are happy for them to be considered in September.

With very best wishes,

Sarah Stokes
Head Teacher

Name of child: ................................................................. Current class: .................................................................
I have read the letter about the school's ‘Pets as Therapy READ 2 DOGS’ scheme and would not like my child to take part.

Signed: ................................................................. Date: .................................................................