

Therapy Dog

Introducing a therapy dog – RINGO - into our school community provides a valuable opportunity to support pupils' wellbeing, emotional development, and engagement with learning. With the support of a parent who owns and handles the dog, this initiative strengthens the partnership between home and school while enriching the daily experiences of our children.

The presence of a calm, well-trained dog can have a positive impact on pupils' emotional wellbeing. Spending time with a therapy dog can help to reduce anxiety, build confidence, and support children in managing their feelings. For some pupils, particularly those who may find school challenging, the dog can provide comfort, motivation, and a sense of security.

There are also clear educational benefits. Children are often more motivated to read, communicate, and engage in activities when a therapy dog is involved. This can be especially helpful in developing reading confidence, speaking and listening skills, and positive attitudes towards learning.

In addition, the therapy dog helps to foster a caring and respectful school environment. Pupils learn about responsibility, empathy, and how to interact safely and appropriately with animals. The involvement of a parent in this initiative further strengthens our community links and highlights the shared commitment to supporting our children's wellbeing and development.

Overall, a therapy dog is a meaningful addition to school life, supporting both emotional wellbeing and learning while bringing our community closer together.