



**HALFPENNY
LANE**

J, I & N SCHOOL

Halfpenny Lane J, I & N School

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Halfpenny Lane J, I and N School - Reading Intervention – Therapy Dog - 'Belle'

Monday 11th March 2024

Dear Parent, Carer,

Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant & Nursery School is delighted to inform you that we have completed the registration process for 'Canine Concern' visits, which is designed to help provide pupils with opportunities to increase their confidence in reading and personal sense of well-being. We now have the opportunity for some of our pupils to participate with this new initiative and I am delighted to inform you that we are striving to launch this at HPL from the beginning of the summer term.

All the children who are selected to receive this new intervention will require parental consent to be fully in place. The necessary and required paperwork will be shared with the parents of the selected children in due course and before any sessions commence. This will provide the school with the parental consent and permissions for your child to engage with the Canine Concern sessions we intend to deliver.

It is also our intention to introduce our new Canine Concern Dog, who is called 'Belle' to the whole school, over several weeks, so that all children are able to meet her. It may be that we introduce Belle to the school for the first time during one of our Friday Celebration Assemblies.

All the sessions that are delivered with our registered Canine Concern Therapy Dog, will take place under the close supervision of the dog's owner and an additional member of the school staff. These dogs are specially trained and registered dogs, who normally visit Hospitals, Hospices and Care Homes etc. They will always remain on the lead and under the full control of the owner. I would also wish to inform you that the necessary risk assessments will be completed prior to the sessions taking place in school. This new school initiative is very exciting and will provide the children of HPL with some very special experiences as they build new bonds and relationships with Belle.

If you would like to discuss this in further detail, please feel free to contact the school office - admin@halfpenny.patrust.org.uk and request to speak with Mrs Greatorex (Assistant Headteacher Inclusion/SENDCo)

Thank you in advance for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Greatorex