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Executive Headteacher (Thrive Trust): Mr P Cavanagh
Head of School: Mr C Leng
Deputy Headteachers: Mrs C Grandidge, Mrs L Piercy, and Mr J Shaw

21st November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School Wellbeing Dog, results of the consultation and next steps

In July last year, I wrote to parents to consult on adding a new member to the Kelvin Hall team, a school wellbeing dog called Lizzie. (You can find the letter sent to all parents on 13/07/22 [here](#).) I am writing to you again today to let you know the outcome of this consultation and our next steps. At the end of my letter, I have included the information originally shared in June 2022 and some pictures of Lizzie.

Thank you to all of those who responded to our survey and shared their views with us. More than 500 parents completed the survey and the main points are shared below.

- **98% of parents were in support of us introducing a school wellbeing dog**
- 4% of parents responded that their child had an allergy to dogs or a phobia of dogs
- Of this 4%, a number were still in support of us introducing a school wellbeing dog but wanted to highlight necessary controls

Through the consultations, three main concerns were raised, which I address below.

How will the school look after Lizzie's wellbeing?

- Lizzie will live in my family home with me, my husband and my children.
- She will have a very slow and carefully planned introduction into the school.
- Her health and grooming needs will be taken care of the same as any family pet, and the school will support this and keep to a regular schedule of appointments.
- Lizzie will have safe spaces in school which are calm and quiet, this will include the wellbeing area, my office, and Mr Leng's office.
- Lizzie will have breaks throughout the school day, including downtime and chances to go outside.

What will the school do if Lizzie does not have the correct temperament to be a wellbeing dog?

- Lizzie is already living in my family home and has had lots of interaction with adults, children, and other dogs. So far, she has a great temperament.
- Lizzie has also already been completing her training, and has had wonderful feedback from wellbeing dog trainers.
- If Lizzie is not suitable to work in the school, she will remain my family pet and we will make suitable arrangements for her to be walked and cared for during the day.

Will this mean lots of students in the wellbeing area to see Lizzie? This could stop students who need this area from accessing it.



- No, the wellbeing area will remain a calm and quiet area for students who need it.
- Lizzie will have a weekly timetable in school, which will include some planned work in the wellbeing area with selected students and groups.
- Lizzie will also interact with other students during planned activities with one of Lizzie's staff handlers.
- We will inform parents of Lizzie's activities on our home bulletin

We are pleased that so many parents are in support of introducing Lizzie into our staff team, this mirrors the support from our Trust, our Governors, and our staff team. This means Lizzie is officially becoming part of our school team and we will be starting the work to introduce her to the school.

Before Lizzie has more close interactions with classes and students, it is very important that we know of any students with allergies and phobias to dogs. Thank you to those who shared this information during the consultation, as we have had new parents and students since July, we have attached a new Google Form for parents to complete if they need to alert us of an allergy or phobia, please click the link below. This form also asks some follow-up questions that were not included in the consultation, so we would like all parents of children with a phobia of dogs or allergy to dogs to complete this form.

<https://forms.gle/g8hG8JngN3PYNorx6>

On Thursday, Lizzie will have her first visit to the school and start to get used to the sights, sounds and smells of the school building. During this visit, she will not interact closely with any students or staff who she does not already know.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@kelvinhall.net.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Grandidge
Deputy Headteacher
Kelvin Hall School

