

What is a therapy dog?

A therapy dog is a dog that is trained to provide affection, comfort and support to people within a setting such as schools, hospitals and care homes. Over the years, numerous research studies have been undertaken to validate the benefits of animal assisted activity and in particular the contribution of therapy dogs. Verified evidence has shown that therapy dogs can enhance children's psychological development, improve social skills, and increase self-esteem among other benefits. Dogs can also teach responsibility, compassion, and respect for other living things.

Dogs within a school environment can be used to calm fears, relieve anxiety, and teach other valuable skills. Here is a summary of potential benefits:

Physical – interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, assists with pain management, gives motivation to move, walk as well as stimulate the senses.

Social – a visit with a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, promotes greater self-esteem and well-being, and focused interaction with others.

Cognitive – companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem solving and game playing.

Emotional – an adorable four-legged visitor improves self-esteem, acceptance from others, and lifts mood often provoking laughter.

Environmental – a dog in a facility can make an environment feel more 'home-like' and lifts peoples mood and this continues after the visit.

Once Kai has gotten used to the school, it's pupils and staff, and he is old enough, he will then begin his therapy dog training program.



Thank you for reading this information leaflet. We hope that you have found it useful and that you have learned more about Kai and how he is going to help the pupils and staff at Graveley to enjoy life at school even more.

If you have any more questions please contact us via the details below.

Graveley C of E Primary School Pupil Parliament



1 week old



4 weeks old



12 weeks old

Graveley C of E Primary School Phone: 01438 357377
Ashwell Common Email: admin@graveley.herts.sch.uk
Graveley, Hertfordshire
SG4 7LJ

Graveley C of E Primary School

Kai, our school dog, who is to be
our trained therapy dog!



**Information and
frequently asked questions.
April 2022**

Important facts about Kai:

Kai was born on January 6th 2022 in Grimsby. He has two brothers (Ernie and Barney) and two sisters

(Nala and Darcy).

His dad is Cooper

and he is a golden Cockapoo.

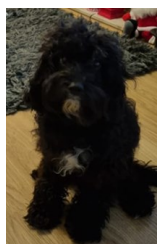
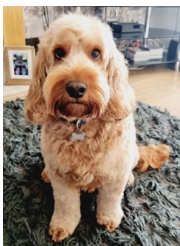
His mum is called Willow and she is a black and white Cava-

poo. This makes Kai a Cocka-

cava-poo!

Kai comes in to school every morning with Miss Potter (who is his registered owner) with a special harness and seat-belt, after he has had his morning walk at his local park and breakfast.

During the day he has a comfy pen with his basket and toys in Mrs. Hand's office. He is having his basic puppy training right now and when he is older he will have his special therapy training to help Graveley to feel like an even better environment to grow up in and learn in.



Our code of conduct when interacting with Kai:

- A school adult will always be supervising Kai (if you see him by himself, go and get an adult).
- Always wash your hands after you have been working with him.
- Always ask before stroking or playing with him.
- When Kai is sleeping, eating or in his pen you must leave him alone.
- Always get permission from Mrs. Hand or Miss Potter before feeding him (he will get ill if you feed him the wrong things so never give him any of your snacks or lunch).

Frequently asked questions:

1. How can we make sure Kai is safe and happy in school? Follow our code of conduct and do not feed him things like chocolate, grapes, onions - there is a list on <https://www.battersea.org.uk/pet-advice/dog-care-advice/toxic-food-dogs> and there is a list of harmful plants on <https://www.dogtrust.org.uk/help-advice/factsheets-downloads/factsheetpoisonoussubstances09.pdf> that we will make sure he does not come into contact with.

2. Has a risk assessment been undertaken? Yes, we have carefully considered having a dog in school and sought advice from many sources, including other schools that successfully have a school dog, vets and dog trainers as well as the 'Pets As Therapy' charity.

3. Will the dog be a distraction to students' learning? Kai will be kept in the Head teacher's; Deputy Head teacher's or the Receptionist's office area. He will only spend time in classrooms, the library and the playground at specific planned sessions where students can interact safely outside of lesson times and therefore he will not be a distraction to them during lessons. Kai will also attend meetings with staff to support further socialisation, following consultation with staff beforehand.

4. Is the dog from a reputable breeder? Yes. The dog is from a home where both parents were seen and has been specifically chosen for his temperament - he is a very calm dog and quite intelligent too; he loves a challenge, as long as there is a treat involved!

There are more F.A.O. on our School Dog Policy which will be available on the school website.