

No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes
DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND NO 3 IN 2018

Top 10 National Pupil Progress
DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



Friday 23rd October 2020

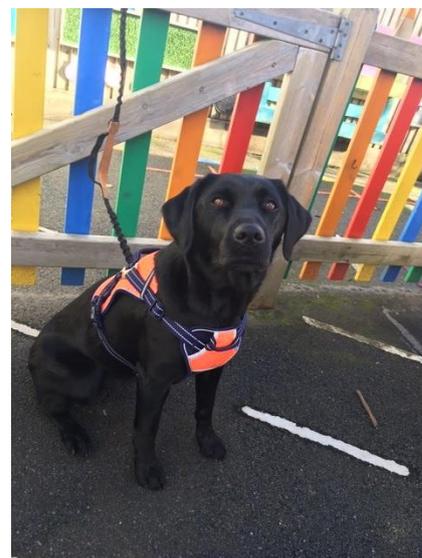
Dear Parents

Here at West Alvington you will have noticed that Mr Nute our new HLTA has been joined by his family dog Uno. Uno is used to being around children and has a calm friendly attitude. Uno is a Labrador, an ideal breed for a school pet due to her placid and patient nature (often used as therapy dogs).

A number of schools have introduced school dogs over the past few years and have seen great benefits from this. Children who do not have pets are able to experience looking after a pet in school, they can be used for comfort for children who may be having a difficult time and they have been used in many schools to help to develop confidence in reading - to just name a few benefits!

Uno will not be based in the school full time, and will be gradually introduced to all of our new children, regardless of age, on an individual and small group basis, taking into account both the children and the dogs' welfare at all times. No child will be unsupervised with the dog at any point, nor will any child be forced to spend time with her.

We are aware that there will be some concerns about having a school pet and we have carried out a full risk assessment to address some of these concerns.



1. Allergies

Some children in the school may have allergies which are aggravated by pet hair. As a Labrador, Uno does shed hair, but Mr Nute tries to keep this to a minimum with regular brushing. If there are children who are possibly affected by this, we will also restrict the areas of the school where she is able to be, reducing the risk of any type of irritation.

2. Phobias

Uno is a big softy and her breed is well known for their placid

temperament, we are aware that this is little reassurance to a child who may have a phobia of dogs.

If we are aware of phobias, we will do what we can to ensure that the child is not in contact with the dog, again, restricting where in the school they are able to go. We absolutely do not want any child to be worried about coming into contact with Uno as we recognise that this is detrimental to their welfare.



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In addition to this restriction, please be assured that at no time will she be able to 'wander' around the school, she will always be supervised by an adult. If your child has a phobia of dogs, please also let us know if you would like to work with us to try to overcome the phobia, we will be guided by you on this!

3. The safety of the children

No child will be left unsupervised with the dog at any time. Children will be taught how to touch and play with her, if they wish to do so.

4. The welfare of the dogs

Uno will not be in school every day and will not be left unsupervised at any time. An adult will always be supervising the safety of both the children and the dog. If the dog is tired, then they are able to rest. Additionally, all children will be spoken to about not feeding Uno and about how to touch and play with her nicely.

If you have any further questions or concerns about your child and our school dog, please do speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment through the office to meet with myself. Please ensure that you complete the form below and return to the office as soon as possible so that we can ensure everyone's safety and happiness alongside our four legged friends.

Yours sincerely

Miss Coombe
Head of Academy



My child's name

Class _____ Year Group _____

Please give details if appropriate

My child has an allergy to dogs

Please give details:

My child has a phobia/is scared of dogs

Please give further information about the phobia and if you would like us to work with your child to help overcome the phobia: