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Headteacher: Mrs R. Griffiths

Dear Parents and Carers,

Rusty the Dog

I'm writing to share some exciting news about a new visitor we are introducing at Rucstall Primary School to support the wellbeing and development of our children. Starting on Thursday, we will be welcoming a therapy dog named Rusty to our school.



About Rusty: Rusty is a friendly and well-trained Australian labradoodle who will be visiting us once a week as part of our new partnership with the Pets as Therapy (PAT) program. Rusty's role will be to work with individual children and occasionally spend time in classrooms: providing comfort, reducing stress, and supporting students in their learning.

How Rusty Will Be Managed:

- Rusty will always be on his lead, accompanied by his owner and a member of our school staff during his visits.
- We will be teaching children how to interact respectfully and safely with Rusty, ensuring everyone understands the proper way to behave around a therapy dog.
- Rusty's presence is designed to be a positive and supportive addition to our school environment, and we are confident that he will have a beneficial impact on the children he interacts with.

We understand that the presence of a dog in school may raise some concerns, and we



want to reassure you that we have taken careful measures to ensure Rusty's visits are safe and well-managed. If you have any questions or concerns about Rusty's role in the school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mr N Blake

Deputy Headteacher