



# **THOMAS WILLINGALE SCHOOL AND NURSERY**

The Broadway, Loughton, Essex. IG10 3SR. Tel: 020 8508 7287 Fax: 020 8502 5364

Headteacher: Miss T. Phillips B.A. (Hons.), PGCE

9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from our letter last week we are pleased to announce that Mabel passed her assessment and achieved her Bronze award as a Dog Mentor. As a result The Dog Mentor programme can now commence work in our school with a number of children. The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.

Over the last eight years The Dog Mentor programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills. These improvements then result in improved academic achievement.

Mabel's work will begin gently and slowly, ensuring that both she and the children are confident around her. No child will be asked to be near Mabel if they do not wish to. At the start of her work she will simply visit classes on a lead, with her trained handler. Children will be asked to remain calm and quiet and not to stroke her. They will be taught to relax and be calm around her, using 'Mabel breathing'. All of Mabel's work is intended to have a positive impact on the children's wellbeing.

Miss Phillips will be bringing Mabel into school from May 13<sup>th</sup> on a part time basis. We envisage that The Dog Mentor will bring a positive influence into the school environment as a whole and look forward to the impact The Dog Mentor programme will have on our children.

A thorough risk assessment has been conducted but if you have any questions on this, please do ask. If you need us to know anything of importance around your child being near a dog (such as a strong fear or allergy), then please ensure you complete the slip and return it by Friday.

Yours Sincerely,  
Miss Phillips

Headteacher

Website: [www.thomaswillingaleprimary.co.uk](http://www.thomaswillingaleprimary.co.uk)

Email address: [admin@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk)



**OUTSTANDING AWARD**

Dear Miss Phillips,

My child is \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ class,

Please outline any information below that you feel we should know about your child and dogs....

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Carer

Website: [www.thomaswillingaleprimary.co.uk](http://www.thomaswillingaleprimary.co.uk)  
Email address: [admin@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk)



OUTSTANDING AWARD

