



# THOMAS WILLINGALE SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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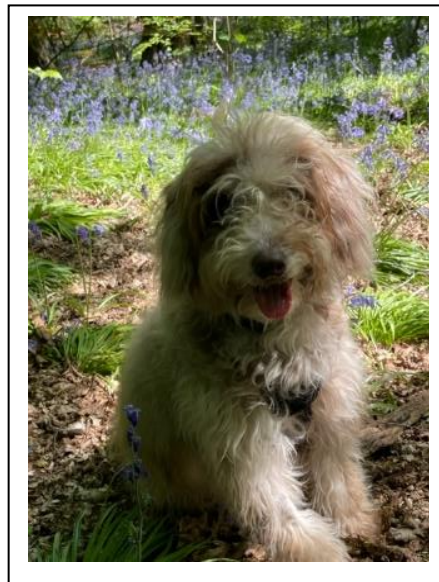
Headteacher: Miss T. Phillips B.A. (Hons.), PGCE



3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are excited to announce that we will be introducing a new member of our team, our own school dog and she will be joining The Dog Mentor Programme. 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 nine 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.

Miss Phillips will be bringing her dog Mabel into school on a part time basis. Mabel is a young Bordoodle, who has a lot of fun, loving energy.

We envisage that The Dog Mentor Programme 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. Full training will be given to both Mabel and our staff that will work with Mabel in order to ensure that the welfare of everyone involved is maintained as a top priority. Thorough risk assessments will be in place. Her school handlers will be, Miss Phillips, Mrs Hinton and Mrs Erics.

**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**

Like any new member of our staff we will ensure Mabel knows all the rules and has a good induction. She will build up her work over time and I am sure you will see her around at some point.

Please feel free to visit The Dog Mentor's website and Facebook page for more details and to see some of the schools that have introduced their dogs into school:

[www.thedogmentor.co.uk](http://www.thedogmentor.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/thedogmentor](https://www.facebook.com/thedogmentor)

I hope that you share our excitement, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Yours Sincerely,



Teresa Phillips  
Headteacher



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