

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for your feedback during the consultation of introducing a school dog to the children in small groups and 1:1 as a reading and therapy dog. The overwhelming vast majority of parents and carers were extremely positive and would advocate having a school dog to undertake these roles.

I would like to share with you some of the feedback we received:

***As a parent, I believe that the addition of a school dog would be most beneficial for the children and staff of Leavening and must be implemented as soon as possible! I believe that a school dog would be a real incentive for reluctant readers in school as they may wish to read more regularly if it was in the company of a canine companion. This is a great idea and receives my full support.***

***I definitely believe a school dog would give the child confidence as well as understanding responsibility and care!***

***My child finds them (dogs) a great source of comfort and support.***

***I'd be very supportive of this, my children, love dogs.***

There was concern that Lenny may feel overwhelmed by the amount of attention from all the children at any one time and by no fault of its own cause harm. In addition for Lenny's safety and wellbeing, being around so many children.

Taking the feedback into consideration I would like to share our plans with you. Lenny will attend school regularly and for most of the time he will be based in the school office with Mrs Kemp. Lenny will slowly be introduced to individuals and small groups to begin his role as a reading dog, engaging pupils in enjoyment of reading. We will then progress to Lenny supporting Mrs Peel in her emotional health and wellbeing work across school. Lenny will occasionally visit the school playground to small numbers of pupils, but this will not be regular. As with anything we implement at school, there will be a review period.

If you have any further questions or thoughts on this please do contact me. Thank you for your support and encouragement in our exciting venture with our school dog.

Best Wishes

Sian Mitchell