



Diocese of Birmingham  
**ST LAURENCE CHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
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Headteacher: Mr Andrew Murphy

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and families,

Pip, our school dog joined us last year in April and we have been really pleased with the impact that she has had on the children, and staff! She is well established and carries out specific duties and interventions in school, as well as greeting all children she comes into contact with. She is also a regular guest at Hot Chocolate Club. She has helped children overcome their fear of dogs, loves to do tricks with the children and has become a firm friend to many.

The demand for Pip's time is increasing. Her work in school can be tiring for her and of course, her welfare must be a priority. We recognise the value that having a Dog Mentor brings and therefore, we are delighted to announce that we are introducing another dog to our school community! The dogs will initially rotate so there is one dog in school each day.

Teddie will be coming into school with his owner, Miss Hussain, our new Pastoral and Attendance Manager. They have both been members of The Dog Mentor programme for over three years and have vast experience working with children in primary schools.

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 ten years in different schools, 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. Through this programme, Pip and Teddie are involved in important research on the benefits of animals in education. We have already seen many benefits of having Pip here and we are excited to see enhanced results with Teddie joining St Laurence Church Junior School.

Teddie will start with us from 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Like Pip, he is fully risk assessed. Full training has been given to Pip, Teddie and our staff that will work with the dogs in order to ensure that the welfare of the dogs and everyone involved is maintained as a top priority. Children will have an assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> April with an introduction to Teddie, a greeting from Pip and a reminder of The Dog Mentor rules.

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)

We understand that there may be children who suffer from allergies or who are afraid of dogs. Therefore, all children and parents are given the option not to partake in any

activities with Pip and Teddie by opting out. If you would like your child to opt out of any activities with Pip and Teddie and you have not already done so, please email [enquiry@stlrncj.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stlrncj.bham.sch.uk). Please also feel free to contact me with any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Mr A Murphy  
Headteacher  
St Laurence Church Junior School