



16 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to inform you that as part of the school's ongoing commitment to support the community, we are going to be assisting in the raising and socialising of a Guide Dog.

The dog will be residing with one of our members of staff for a year and will be brought into school to work with small, pre-selected groups of students throughout this academic year. This socialisation of the puppy is crucial to its development and will better equip it to guide a blind or visually impaired person in different scenarios once it has been trained.

The guide dog, once trained, will be partnered with a visually impaired individual and be expected to work with that person in their everyday life. It is hoped that his experience within our school will equip him to guide a person in an educational environment.

We feel that the benefits will not only be to the guide dog, but to our students too. The puppy will help progress the educational, social, emotional and physical development of individual students and groups. He will work in a number of different departments within the school, in a pastoral and pedagogical capacity.

The policy surrounding guide dogs in a school environment is incredibly strict, and alongside our own school policy will be enforced at all times. The fundamental statements include;

- The dog will not be visible to students at social times.
- The dog will work with specific students in pre-arranged groups. The students will be asked in advance if they wish to work with the dog and withdrawn if they do not wish to do so.
- The dog will be kept on a lead at all times when around students.

If you have any specific concerns about this exciting project, please do not hesitate to contact me on j.brake@finhampark2.co.uk.

I look forward to updating you throughout the year on the progress of the dog and the positive impact on our students.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Brake
Deputy Headteacher