



# ST. LEONARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND LEO'S NURSERY

St. Leonard's Avenue  
Stafford  
ST17 4LT

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Spearing

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Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to introduce you to Peggy, she is a Springer Spaniel. Peggy belongs to Mrs Hensley, who has very generously agreed that she can become our School Dog.

There has been a comprehensive risk assessment completed and Peggy is fully insured, which includes public liability insurance. Peggy will be kept clean and healthy, with all her vaccinations up to date. Her claws will be kept short and she will be trained not to jump up at children. She is already being conditioned to being in school. Children will not be allowed to feed her or be with her unsupervised. During her rest periods she will be in her secure bed away from the children and noise.



Whilst in school, Peggy will be on a leash at all times, she may at times go into the playground to play games with some of the children. Lots of schools have School Dogs, because studies have shown that they can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding. There is also evidence that "reading dogs" can break down barriers and help children to develop their literacy skills. By introducing Peggy into the school environment we hope she will enrich children's learning, teach them patience, compassion, responsibility and socialisation skills.

We require permission from you as a parent/carer to allow your child to interact with Peggy, if your child has an allergy to dogs or is frightened of dogs, Peggy will not be near them. If children do not want to interact with Peggy, then please be assured they will not be asked to do so.

We are hoping this will be a success, and enhance your child's life at St. Leonard's, please could you complete the permission slip and return it to your child's teacher at the earliest convenience as we wish to have Peggy attending school regularly after the half term break.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs H Spearing**  
**Headteacher**

Name of Child .....

Class .....

I give permission for my child to interact with Peggy: YES/NO

My child has an allergy to dogs: YES/NO

My child is fearful of dogs: YES/NO

Any comments:

Signature ..... Person with Parental Responsibility