AIM

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Federation of Schools

Small Schools, Big Opportunities

Tuesday 21st January 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcoming Basil: Our New Federation Dog

At AIM Federation, we are always seeking meaningful ways to support the well-being and development of our children across our seven schools. With this in mind, we are delighted to share that we are exploring the possibility of welcoming a very special member to our school community: Basil, a seven-year-old Golden Retriever.



Basil is a calm, gentle and affectionate dog who has been carefully chosen for his suitability in working with children. His role would include providing emotional support, reducing stress and anxiety and encouraging confidence in reading through quiet, one-to-one or small group sessions. Research has shown that the presence of a well-trained dog in schools can have a hugely positive impact on children's emotional well-being and learning.

We understand that introducing a dog into school life is a significant decision, and we are committed to ensuring this is a positive experience for everyone. One of our key priorities is safeguarding the health and safety of all children, particularly those with allergies or who may feel uncertain around dogs. To address this:

- Basil would only be in secure, designated areas of the school.
- Any interaction with Basil would be entirely optional.
- For children with allergies, we would ensure no unintended contact, and Basil would be kept clean, groomed and regularly checked by a vet.

If you would prefer that your child does not interact with Basil in any capacity, please complete the **opt-out survey below** by **Monday 27th January**. This will help us respect your wishes and ensure your child's environment remains free from any interaction with Basil.



https://forms.gle/fFaUXL4imiZBQsHe8

We are thrilled to share that, Basil's first day at school will be **Friday 31st January**.

We also value your input as we plan this initiative. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please let us know. We are committed to making this an enriching experience for everyone in our community. We believe that Basil has the potential to bring something truly special to our schools, and we are excited about this opportunity to support our children in new and innovative ways.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to enhance the care and education we provide.

Yours sincerely,

David Hopkins
Executive Headteacher