



# Mill Water School

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Bicton, East Budleigh, Devon, EX9 7BJ | Headteacher: Sarah Pickering

Dear Parents and Carers,

Molly has enjoyed her summer, but is happy to be back in school and seeing all of the pupils again!

Unfortunately, Dogs Helping Kids who we were training with are unable to continue operations due to financial difficulties suffered through Covid. In order for Molly to continue to be able to work in school, we have started training with Bales Buddies who work specifically to train Therapy Dogs and School Dogs. More information on them and the dogs they work with can be found on their website - <https://www.balesbuddies.org/>

Bales Buddies have observed and assessed Molly over the summer and have started taking her out for training. The next step is for them to come in to school and start working with her in the building. This has been fully risk assessed from both a school dog and Covid perspective and all measures are in place to ensure it is safe. Bales Buddies staff will be working with Molly and will begin to introduce her to pupils, alongside a member of Mill Water staff who will be there to support the child. They will use a meeting room to work in and only work with pupils from within one 'bubble' during a session. I will also be doing more work with her in the classrooms and encouraging interactions around the school as we see both pupils and staff.

Please could you complete and return the permission slip below in order for Molly to work with your child, including any information that may be relevant to them around dogs.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,

Kayleigh Price

Assistant Head

School Dog at Mill Water School

Name of child: .....

Class: .....

I understand that Molly will be in attendance at Mill Water School and is in training to be a School Dog with Bales Buddies. She will be working in the school building with either Kayleigh, or a member of staff from Bales Buddies.

My child is/is not nervous around dogs

My child does/does not have an allergy to dogs

If you think your child would particularly benefit from working with Molly, please can you outline the reasons for this and any outcome you would envisage:

Any other relevant information:

Signed: ..... Date: .....