



Tudor Grange Academy
Dingle Lane
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 3PD

7th June 2019

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing with the exciting news that we will shortly be joined by a new addition to the school community. From June 17th Miss Grace, who works as a Learning Mentor in the SEN department, will be accompanied by Misty, a labrador and golden retriever cross, who will work as her disability assistance dog around the school.

Misty will accompany Miss Grace around the site, both in and out of classrooms, and has been chosen due to her calm temperament. Misty has undergone intensive training with Miss Grace at Canine Partners UK so that she can be fully integrated into school life. Canine Partners is a very experienced accredited charity who train dogs for the workplace to help people lead independent and safe lives when faced with physical disability. Their dogs are placed all over the UK and are already working with individuals in schools and universities.

School Arrangements

We appreciate that not all children will like dogs (although we hope Misty will help alleviate some fears) and we are extremely mindful of allergies. At no point will Misty be left without an adult and if she is moving around school, she will be on a lead at all times. During the evenings and over the holidays Misty will live with Miss Grace who will ensure that she is kept up to date with her flea and worm treatments, and routine appointments at the vets.

Whilst in classrooms, Misty is trained to stay in her dedicated space and will not ordinarily move around the room. Miss Grace will remain in charge of her throughout the lesson and will leave before the end. Outside of lessons, Misty will again remain with Miss Grace for exercise and rest as she performs her trained duties to assist in her daily routine.

We are aware that Misty may create some excitement for students who come across her. It is important that everyone is aware of the expectations and do not interact, stroke or disturb her unless specially invited to by Miss Grace. Misty is a working dog and is in place to assist and support Miss Grace.

Allergies

Miss Grace will not be attending lessons in which children already established with allergies will be present. If you want to alert us to any issue in this area, I would be most grateful if you could email our Welfare and Liaison Officer, Mrs Guck, KGuck@solihull.tgacademy.org.uk.

I hope you can see the benefits of Misty joining us in the near future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, please note the link below for further information regarding assistance dogs in the workplace.

<https://www.co-opinsurance.co.uk/hub/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Coop-dogs-infographic-v4-final.png>

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Smith
Principal

