

Heatherwood School

an academy within Nexus MAT

Leger Way, Doncaster DN2 6HQ
Tel: 01302 322044

www.heatherwoodschoo.org www.nexusMAT.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Lisa Suter Interim Head of School: Daryl Bennett



Dear Parents/Carers,

Heatherwood is delighted to introduce our first therapy pet called Ruby! Ruby is a fully trained Therapy dog and will be attending Heatherwood School on a Friday morning with her owner Karen Latimar. Karen is a previous teacher of Heatherwood and knows pupils and school very well! The purpose of Ruby & Karen's visits is to support pupil wellbeing within school as research outlines that interactions with a therapy dog are proven benefit pupils both educationally and emotionally as it can increase pupils understanding of responsibility and help pupils develop empathy and nurturing skills.



Ruby will begin her weekly visits to Heatherwood by visiting Blue class on the 19th January 2024. We have developed a risk assessment and a policy that outlines how we will care for and manage Ruby and her activities whilst visiting school. To support us, please could you fill out the below consent form below and outline if your child has any allergies associated to dogs together with the usual medical evidence to support this. Please could you also outline if your child has any fears/ phobias of dogs and discuss this further with your child's class teacher.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact school and we are happy to discuss this with you.

Yours sincerely,

Rochesca Moody

Assistant Headteacher (Temporary)

I give consent for _____ (pupil name) to have direct contact with Ruby (Therapy dog).

I confirm that my child does / does not (delete as appropriate) have any known allergies of dogs.

I confirm that my child does / does not have any fears or phobia's of dogs.

Signed: _____

Relationship to pupil: _____

Date: _____