



## Ecclesfield Primary School

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Executive Head: L Chadwick

2nd October 2025

### ROCKY

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are excited to introduce a new member to our school community, a very friendly and playful school dog, named Rocky!

Rocky is a 2-year-old Golden Retriever and lives with me, (Mrs Chadwick) and my family. He will start to join us at Coit and Ecclesfield Primary as part of our effort to enhance the learning experience and provide additional support to our pupils.



Rocky is in training to become a therapy dog and is expected to complete his certification in the next 12 to 18 months. During this time, he will be working with our children and staff to develop the necessary skills required for his role - he has passed the temperament assessment and is used to being around lots of children as he regularly attended my previous school, with me, since being 8 months old.

Having a school dog offers numerous benefits to our pupils and the school community. Some of these advantages include:

1. Emotional Support: Dogs have been known to provide emotional support and comfort to individuals, especially in stressful or challenging situations. In the long term, we hope that Rocky will be available to offer a calming presence and help reduce anxiety among our children.
2. Social and Communication Skills: Interacting with a dog can help foster social and communication skills. Rocky will encourage positive interactions, empathy, and responsibility among our pupils, promoting a caring and inclusive school environment.



3. Health and Well-being: Studies have shown that spending time with dogs can have positive effects on mental and physical health. Rocky's presence will, in time, contribute to a happier and healthier school community.

We understand that some pupils/parents may have allergies, fears, or other concerns regarding dogs. Therefore, we will implement an opt-out policy to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and safe. If you prefer for your child not to have any direct contact with Rocky, please notify us in writing by completing the following form

<https://forms.office.com/e/uRA5WggsPM> by Monday 6th October and we will make appropriate arrangements to accommodate your child's needs.

Rest assured, we have taken the necessary steps to ensure the safety of our pupils and Rocky himself. Rocky will always be on a short lead around the children and under the supervision of a member of staff and will undergo regular health check-ups to maintain his well-being.

Please note; Rocky has Governor approval to be on the school site during the school day. This does not extend to other dogs; the rule that other dogs are not permitted on the school site remains in place.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us for a conversation. We appreciate your support in making this well-being-focused initiative a success.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Louise Chadwick  
Executive Headteacher

