

# All about our School Dog

Luna is our school dog



- Hello – I'm Luna. I am a Spanish water dog.
- I'm training to be your school dog. Like you, I am learning to love Reading and I am very safe to have in school.
- I am always on my lead and if you see me walking around the school with Maria- please don't make a loud noise. If you want to touch me then ask Maria and I will sit quietly so that you can stroke me under my chin or on my back. I love having my tummy rubbed !
- Maybe you might just want to watch from afar- and that's fine too.
- I am learning to be in school so please help me and welcome me.
- Maria will let you know if I am in school by putting a poster up in the front office and letting your teacher know.

# Why do we have a school dog?

- They help build self esteem
- They are used in many schools in Tower Hamlets to support pupils with SEMH barriers – particularly following COVID.
- They teach calmness, manners and respect
- They boost your happy feelings and lower stress levels
- Many religions, teach mercy and kindness towards all of God's creation, including cats and dogs.
- Please read our school dog policy.

# Some questions you may have



- **My religion says touching dog saliva is forbidden.**
- All children will be encouraged to wash their hands after touching Luna.
- **Dogs are unhygienic**
- Luna is already housetrained and we will have a cleaning station available. At the end of a school day – all classes are cleaned. Luna will not be allowed in areas where food is prepared or served.
- **Dogs are dangerous**
- We have put in place a Risk Assessment for Luna – you can see this on the website . All risks are Low – with the correct measures in place.
- **My child is allergic to dogs**
- Your child will be kept apart from Luna when she comes into the classroom .
- **It is cruel to have a dog in school**
- Luna will only be in school for 1 or 2 days a week. On these days she will have plenty of breaks and exercise. If she seems distressed then we will evaluate the programme.
- **I am scared of dogs**
- Luna will stay with Maria in her office when she is not being walked around school or working with pupils. Please look out for the notice when you come into the office so that you feel reassured.