



Shaftesbury CE Primary School

Wincombe Lane, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8PZ

Tel: 01747 852901

office@shaftesburyprimary.co.uk



20th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited to let you know that we will be introducing a new school dog to Shaftesbury Primary. Scruff is a 2 1/2-year-old, miniature labradoodle and belongs to me, Mrs Edwards. Labradoodles are known for being a low shedding breed, which has hypoallergenic properties. There has been extensive research about the many benefits that can be seen by having a school dog, which we saw ourselves with our previous school dog Bobbie.

We believe that interacting with animals can lead to an increased sense of wellbeing as well as supporting children who may be experiencing anxiety. Being responsible for an animal can develop increased sensitivity and awareness of the feelings and needs of others: animals and humans. Through caring for animals, children learn that all living things need more than just food and water for survival.

Scruff regularly goes to the vet for yearly vaccinations and has regular flea and worm treatments. The children will only be able to interact with her under strict supervision and as long as parental permission has been given. She will initially be in school for a short visit on 21st July, with the hope of more regular visits from September. When she is moving around the school, she will be on a lead and always with an adult. We hope she will be able to support children across school in areas such as reading, nurture groups and on walks in the school grounds. I hope the children will gain a lot of enjoyment from having a school dog. I will be speaking to the children about how to act safely and sensibly around dogs as part of our whole school assemblies.



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We already hold parental permissions for your child to have contact with the school dog, if this has changed, please update this on Arbor and if you have any individual questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to myself.

We are very much looking forward to introducing a dog to our school community over the coming months. In the meantime, why don't you prepare your children by talking to them about how to 'Be Dog Smart'.



Kind regards,

Gayle Edwards
Deputy Head of School