

Martha



Hello, my name is Martha I am your school dog, I am also Miss Barker's family pet.

Read on to find out all about me from Miss Barker and how I can help everyone in the St. Paul's Peel C.E. Family...

Martha is a black miniature schnauzer and was born on 17th April 2021. Miniature schnauzers originated in Germany in the mid-to-late 19th century, they are hypoallergenic (meaning they don't moult). Miniature Schnauzers are generally well-mannered and fun-loving dogs.

Martha has regular check-ups at the vet and has updated vaccinations, flea and worming treatment.

What are the benefits of Martha?

- ✓ A calming effect on pupils, staff and parents
- ✓ Encouraging expression and participation in more withdrawn children
- ✓ Fostering a sense of responsibility
- ✓ Improved behaviour, attendance and concentration, reduced stress and improved self-esteem
- ✓ Motivating students to think and to learn, as most children have a high level of natural interest in, enthusiasm for, and enjoyment of animals.
- ✓ Encouraging respect and thereby improving pupil relationships with each other, parents and teachers.
- ✓ Helping work undertaken with the most vulnerable pupils, and educational improvements with lower achievers.
- ✓ Helping children build confidence in reading:-
<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/feb/28/dogs-listen-to-children-reading>
- ✓ Cognitive - companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem-solving and game-playing
- ✓ Physical - interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, assists with pain management, gives motivation to move, walk and stimulates the senses.
- ✓ Emotional - Martha improves self-esteem, acceptance from others and lifts mood, often provoking laughter and fun. She can also teach compassion and respect for other living things as well as relieving anxiety.
- ✓ Social - Martha provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, encourages responsibility, wellbeing and focused interaction with others.

Guidelines to interaction with Martha

There will always be a responsible adult in charge of Martha during interactions with children. Children and adults are required to adhere to the following;

- ✓ Always approach Martha calmly and slowly
- ✓ Never run up to Martha
- ✓ Offer the back of your hand for Martha to sniff when meeting her
- ✓ All interactions must remain calm with the authorised adult in control at all times
- ✓ Pupils must wash their hands after they have been stroking Martha

Frequently Asked Questions

What will Martha do on a day to day basis?

Martha will be based in Miss Barker's office. She may visit different classes or help with particular projects, such as learning about caring for animals. Martha will always be kept on a lead, unless contained in the Headteacher's office.

How do I know that my child will be safe around Martha?

A risk assessment will be in place and will be available on the school website. The school has insurance to cover having a dog on the school site. Pupils will only have contact with Martha when supervised by an adult. When moving around the school, Martha, will always be on the lead.

Will my child pick up infections from the dog?

Martha is fully vaccinated, treated regularly for worms and fleas and will be kept away from the school if she is ill. Pupils will be required to wash their hands after handling the dog.

What if my child is allergic to dogs or afraid of them?

Martha is a hypoallergenic dog. Parents can request that their child has no contact or restricted access to Martha in these situations. Please speak to Miss Barker to discuss any concerns.