

## **Long Sutton County Primary School**

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Wednesday 18th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to announce that we will be introducing our own school dog and will be joining The Dog Mentor Programme. The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.

Over the last nine years The Dog Mentor programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills. These improvements then result in improved academic achievement.

Mr Whiting will be bringing his dog (Rufus) into school from the week beginning Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023, initially for 2 days a week. We envisage that The Dog Mentor Programme will bring a positive influence into the school environment as a whole and look forward to the impact The Dog Mentor programme will have on our children. Full training has been given to both Rufus and our staff that will work with Rufus in order to ensure that the welfare of everyone involved is maintained as a top priority.

Please feel free to visit The Dog Mentor's website and Facebook page for more details and to see some of the schools that have introduced their dogs into school:

www.thedogmentor.co.uk www.facebook.com/thedogmentor

I hope that you share our excitement, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Gray Headteacher