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Monday 10th May 2021.

The planned return of Reading Dog Jess.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Recently the children have increasingly queried about when our very own Reading Dog Jess will be able to listen to the children read in 'person'.

I have spoken to vets who have sought further advice regarding the risk of spreading COVID 19 pandemic and it is negligible especially as we will follow the following additional safeguards.

Jess' family household of humans will take a COVID test the evening before she comes into school and she will only enter school grounds if there is a universal negative test.

Jess will only visit school 1 day per week in the first instance and will only listen to readers withing 1 bubble per week. Hand hygiene and our usual COVID secure procedures will be in place with thorough hand washing before and after reading to Jess.

Jess won't listen to readers in a class who are suffering non COVID related illnesses or come into school if any of her family of humans are unwell as an additional precaution.

The risk assessment for having Jess as a reading dog in school which I worked with staff from The Dogs Trust will be updated and on the school website for reference.

If you do not wish for your child to receive a visit from Jess now or in the near future, please contact me directly – Belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk by Wednesday 12th May 2021.

Best wishes, Belinda Athey – Headteacher.

Headteacher: Mrs Belinda Athey



