

Witton Church Walk CE Primary School  
Church Walk, off Chester Way,  
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*'Where Every Door is Opened  
and Every Gift Unlocked'*

Head teacher: Mrs K Magiera  
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### **Meet Nellie**

Nellie is our school dog. She is very friendly, loveable and incredible outgoing. She loves to be stroked and fussed and will do anything for treats!

Nellie is here to greet us most mornings and help children who are feeling a bit wobbly to come into school. She is here to listen to us if we are feeling sad or worried. Nellie loves to exercise with us on the school playground and field.

Nellie sits beautifully still so that she can provide a friendly ear to any child who may find reading tricky. It is really great to be able to read to a non-critical friend. Nellie is also here for children who would like five minutes out or just a friendly face to come and sit with. She will help to build confidence, encourage a love for reading and help lots of children become fluent readers.



### **Benefits of Classroom Animals**

School pets have been found to:

- Motivate children to think and learn
- Foster a sense of responsibility in children
- Teach children nurturing skills
- Encourage a feeling of empathy for others
- Improve academic achievement
- Lead to improved school attendance rates

### **Pets Enrich the Classroom Experience**

Observing and caring for an animal instills a sense of responsibility and respect for life. A pet can bring increased sensitivity and awareness of the feelings and needs of others – both animals and humans. They help children learn that living things need



more than just food and water for survival. Children can see directly how their behaviour and actions affect others. Studies show that the presence of animals tends to lesson tension in the classroom

### **Pets Encourage Nurturing**

Nobody enjoys being treated roughly so children soon learn that if they want to be liked and trusted by animals they need to treat them carefully and kindly. It soon becomes apparent to children that this also works for humans.

### **Pets Build Self Esteem**

Helping to take care for a pet gives a child a sense of pride and accomplishment.

### **Pets Teach Responsibility**

Even a small child can begin to learn to care for the needs of another living being. Feeding and caring for a pet encourages childhood responsibilities.

### **Pets become friends**

Children can develop strong bonds with animals. These relationships help to strengthen a child's social skills. It particularly gives our children an opportunity to practise nurturing and care giving skills.

Research has shown that having a dog in school provides a therapeutic effect which helps children get over any emotional trouble if something has gone wrong during the school day

There is a fully comprehensive risk assessment on the school website if you would like to take some time to read it.

Please pop in the office if you do not wish, for any reason, that your child has any contact with Nellie. If this is the case we will inform their class teacher and keep a record of this in the office.

Kind regards

Mrs K Magiera  
Head teacher

