



Introducing Dylan!

We are very excited to introduce Dylan, who will occasionally be joining us at Oldbury!

Dylan is Mrs Horner's five-year-old Welsh Springer Spaniel. He is very used to being around children – in fact, he has two young humans of his very own at home! At five years old, Dylan is calm, settled and extremely kind and gentle.



Dylan will only visit occasionally, probably a few times each month. When he is here, he will spend most of his day doing what he does best – sleeping in Mrs Horner's office! As you can see from the photograph, he is already rather good at this. He may also have a little walk around school on his lead and, from time to time, join the children for some outdoor adventures at Forest School.



There is a growing body of research around dogs in educational settings. Studies suggest that positive interactions with dogs can support children's wellbeing, motivation and engagement.

Of course, children's safety and Dylan's welfare come first. We have completed a full school risk assessment covering Dylan's visits and how children will interact with him. He will always be

carefully supervised, children will be taught how to behave safely and kindly around him and he will have his own quiet space away from children whenever he needs it.

Today, the children will have an assembly all about Dylan, including how we approach him calmly, give him space and show him the same love, care and respect that we show one another.

We completely understand that some children may be nervous or wary of dogs. If your child is particularly worried about dogs, please email the school office to let us know. We will make sure that Dylan is kept at a comfortable distance and if appropriate, introduce him very slowly and gently, at your child's pace.

We think Dylan is going to enjoy being an occasional member of the Oldbury family – although judging by the photograph, he may spend rather a lot of his working day asleep!