

# Birchfield Community Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr Richard Culham B.Ed Hons

'One school, learning together'

31 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carers



What a wonderful first term Tilly has had at school. She is settling in very well and the children have been challenged to be the 'Best Ignorer'! Although she attends a weekly training class locally, she also visits Tiverton every 3 or 4 weeks to train direct with the charity to ensure she is on the right path, there is so much to learn!

Tilly has another training day at the charity Headquarters in Barnstaple in March, following on from this she will be given clear advice on what she needs to do before her official entry test, sometime in June. This test is very important, it can only be taken once and involves many elements including an out of sight 5 minute 'stay'!

Fingers crossed that her entry test goes well and Tilly will then, slowly, be able to work with the children. This will involve children being part of a walk, coming to share work and beginning to read with her.

Although she hasn't yet been able to work directly with the children, she is still having a positive influence in school. The Year 4 children have written about a dog moving to a new home and asked many questions about how Tilly felt when she came to us, she visited a KS1 phonics group who asked questions about the care of a dog and Tilly has her very own stamp which is used to celebrate fantastic pieces of work. She has also been a great calming influence when meeting parents or when children have needed to take 5 minutes.

At the moment key staff have been meeting the costs for Tilly. It is a challenging time in education with regards to budgets and difficult decisions have to be made as to where our priorities are.

As Tilly needs additional training, equipment and insurance her running costs are higher than your average dog. Some of the costs are as follows:

£20.00	DHK special lead
£25.00	Personalised DHK collar for a DHK School Dog
£30/£40	DHK harness (depends on the size of the dog)
£40/£50	DHK School Coat (depends on the size of the dog)
£100.00	Fun agility equipment for a DHK School Dog
£150.00	Coat, harness, lead, collar, treat pouch, clicker and whistle
£300.00	Insurance for one DHK School Dog to work in a school or college for a year

Although Tilly is subsidised by the charity and various sponsorship events, over the next 3 years she is likely to cost:



£3,000	The Training & Assessments of a new puppy (8 weeks of age) in the <b>DHK Puppy Training Programme</b> .
£5,000	The Training & Assessments of a Trainee DHK School Dog for Year One of the <b>DHK School Dog Training Programme</b> .
£7,000	The Training & Assessments of a Trainee DHK School Dog for Year Two of the <b>DHK School Dog Training Programme</b> .
£15,000	The Training & Assessments of <b>One School Dog Team</b> in its entirety over a 3 year period from puppyhood to certification – this includes all training, all assessments, insurance, attire, school visits and assessments, course material, and on-going support and advice from the charity at all times.

During the week 4-9<sup>th</sup> February we will be raising the profile of the charity and I will be holding further assemblies with the children around dog ownership and the '**Let's talk Dog**' programme. This is to educate the children further around the correct ways to approach dogs, how to play with them and the types of body language to look out for.

We will also be looking for a **corporate sponsor**. We are asking if any of our parents know of any local businesses that would be willing to commit to sponsor Tilly over the next 3 years. The sponsorship comes in the form of a yearly donation and goes towards training, assessments and on-going work.

There is a minimum annual donation of £500 – any more would be gratefully appreciated. In return from the charity you will get:

- a DHK Certificate featuring Tilly, acknowledging your kind support of their work
- a thank you on DHK's Facebook page
- a year's inclusion on the DHK charity website next to Tilly – your business name will feature, with a link from the charity website to your business website
- a year's inclusion of your business logo with a link to your website in the corporate sponsors box that features on every page of our charity website.

We would also promote your sponsorship within school, on our website and Tilly's social media pages.

If you do know of a company or business locally who may be interested please let us know. We would be more than happy to discuss this further and are really keen to include our local community.

Don't forget you can follow Tilly's adventures on social media. Her Instagram tag is @tillytheschooldog and her Facebook page is 'Tilly the Birchfield School Dog'

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Judy Parker  
**Deputy Head Teacher**