



**WILLIAM HARDING SCHOOL**  
Aim high... Work hard... Be kind...

**WILLIAM HARDING SCHOOL**  
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**Head Teacher: Miss T Cotchin BA(Hons) PGCE NPQH**



28 February 2023

Dear parents and carers,

**Read 2 Dogs**

We are pleased to let you know that we have re started our work with Pets as Therapy’s ‘Read 2 Dogs’ programme. Research shows that young people can become nervous and stressed when reading to others in a group. However, when a Read 2 Dog enters the group, they often become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident as the dogs are non-judgmental. Before long, children start looking forward to the new reading experience as they are going to read to their new friend. Read 2 Dogs are PAT tested and provide comfort, encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem, motivate speech and inspire children to have fun.

Belinda and her dog, Ginny will be visiting the school on a weekly basis and small groups of children will be able to read to Ginny. Sessions will last for approx. 20 minutes and groups will change after Easter. Parents will be informed if their child has been put forward to start a session as a consent form will need to be completed prior to the sessions.

You can find out more about ‘Pets as Therapy’ at [www.petsastherapy.org](http://www.petsastherapy.org)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if you feel your child may benefit from this programme.

Kind regards

Mrs S Bicknell

Family Liaison Officer

**Our School Values are: Inclusion, Perseverance, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Collaboration.**

