

Northenden Community School

Determination Ambition Equality



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Wednesday 3rd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,



I am writing to inform you about Northenden's latest addition to the staff team. Funded with the generous support of our PTA, we have enrolled on the PAWS therapy dog training programme for Edie the Golden Retriever.

PAWS Therapy & Assistance Dog Training are the sister company to People and Animal Wellbeing Services CIC who have been providing Animal Assisted Interventions to hundreds of children, young people and adults since 2020.

Therapy Dogs open doors to connection, joy and lasting transformation in ways nothing else can. Having worked in over 200 schools across the country, PAWs have helped pupils find their voice, regulate more easily and helped them feel more confident about coming into school.



Edie is Ms Byrne's Golden Retriever Puppy, who is 5 months old and we are excited for her to become a fully trained Therapy Dog to support our children in multiple ways. Lots of the children have already met Edie whilst they have been out and about around Northenden over the summer holidays and she has loved saying hello.

Golden Retrievers excel as therapy dogs because of their exceptional empathy, calm temperament and eagerness to please.

As Edie is a puppy she is still in training. However, she has started to come into school for a few hours each day, to get used to the noises and smells of a primary school.



This means the children may see Edie around school, but they won't be working directly with her.

We would like to reassure all families that the school has taken every measure to ensure having a dog at school is as safe as possible for everyone. We have a dog policy, completed the relevant risk assessments and ensured we have the right public liability insurance in place.

The children will have assemblies and lessons to ensure they know the dos and don'ts of having a school dog and we will be

keeping an up-to-date log of any allergies and phobias. Please look out for the relevant form on Reach More Parents to complete with this type of information.

We will continually keep families updated on Edie's progress through the Reach More Parents app and if your child is chosen to visit or work with Edie, we will be sure to get the appropriate permissions before doing so.

If in the meantime, you have any questions or concerns, please contact the main office by emailing admin@northenden.manchester.sch.uk or calling 0161 9984825.

Best wishes,

Ruth Byrne

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. Byrne', written in dark ink on a light background.

Headteacher