



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*part of Bosco Catholic Education Trust*



*Striving for Excellence in all that we do  
as we learn to live like Jesus*

26<sup>th</sup> April 2018

To all Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to introduce you to our newest staff member – Deirdre, a cocker-poo puppy – who will be training to become a therapy, or learning support, dog and will work as part of the Inclusion team.



Dogs are becoming a part of life at many schools and colleges, including St Philip Howard in Barnham and Worthing College, and research shows that they have a calming effect and also improve literacy skills. For example, children may be more willing to read to a dog than an adult, even when an adult is present and supervising.

As part of Deirdre's preparation to become a therapy dog, she will be coming into school each day and spending short amounts of time with classes and smaller groups of children. Please be assured that no child will be made to spend any time with Deirdre.

I hope you will join with us in making Deirdre feel welcome!

Yours sincerely

Mrs G Irvine  
Headteacher