



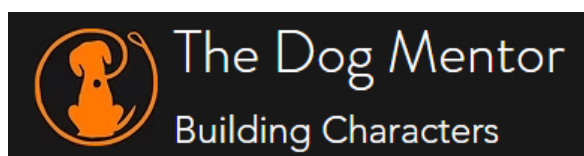
Building each other up –
with God as our firm foundation

St. Paul's Church of England (A) Primary School

Emsworth Crescent
Pendeford
Wolverhampton
WV9 5NR

Headteacher: Mrs J. Ferretti
Telephone No: 01902 558621
Email: stpaulsprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Website: www.stpaulscofeprimaryschool.co.uk

31st May 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share with you news of another new arrival to the St Paul's team – this time one of the four legged variety - Barney the golden labrador!!

On Tuesday 2nd June, we will be welcoming Jenny Duckworth (Founder of 'The Dog Mentor Programme') who will be training myself, Ms Clarke (Barney's owner) and Miss Woods as dog handlers and, assessing Barney's suitability to become a school dog and mentor.



Once training and assessment has been completed, Barney will hold a licence to be a support/assistance dog (dog mentor) in school.

The Dog Mentor Programme builds upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially. Since 2012, implementation of The Dog Mentor Programme in Primary and Secondary schools across the UK has proven to have significant impact on many children's lives, particularly in enhancing children's learning and emotional well-being.

During the training, Jenny will be working with us to create a bespoke risk assessment for our school, including how allergies will be managed, as well as how we will support children (and adults) who may have a fear of dogs.

We have considered this decision carefully and at length, and even visited St Regis CE Academy in Tettenhall to find out how the introduction of their school dogs Brian and Orla has impacted on their students (see links below). We feel passionate that introducing a dog into school will bring a wide range of benefits to the whole school community and we can't wait to introduce Barney to you all!

Want to find out more?

[Dogs Supporting Education | The Dog Mentor | UK](#)

[How dogs are helping Wolverhampton schoolchildren achieve more in the classroom | Express & Star](#)

[The Dog Mentor - ITV News 19th March 2024](#)

Best wishes,

Mrs Ferretti (Headteacher) and Barney (the dog!)

