

# Rayleigh Primary School

Head: Mrs Jennifer Roberts  
BA (Hons) Pri Ed, NPQH.



Monday 20th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing with exciting news! Ralph, a registered therapy dog, and his lovely owner Christine, will soon be coming into Rayleigh Primary School. Ralph is a registered and assessed therapy dog, which means that he has met very high standards in terms of temperament and training. More information about Therapy Dogs Nationwide, where Ralph is registered and has been assessed, can be found here: <https://tdn.org.uk/>.

Ralph's remit will be to work closely with Mrs Dearman, our Inclusion Mentor, to help benefit children's well-being in school. For example, Ralph might hear children read, be a comforting presence while they talk, or might form a reward for positive behaviour. His role will develop as we get to know him and see the impact on the children.

To make sure everything is safe, when Ralph is in school, he will always be accompanied by his owner, Christine, and both of them have been trained to visit schools. He will be on a lead for moving around the school site. We will brief the children as to their behaviour around Ralph, and dogs in general. Children will be reminded of these expectations when interacting with Ralph. Full risk assessments will, of course, be in place.

We acknowledge that some children might have a fear of dogs or allergies triggered by dog hair. If you have concerns about this, we would ask you to register them via this [Google form](#) by Monday 27th January, so that we can take these into account. No child will be forced to interact with Ralph if they do not want to, but equally, because of Ralph's training, he is likely to be a positive influence on children who might have been frightened in the past of other dogs. If you have any other questions or concerns about Ralph that are not covered by the Google form, please email [schooloffice@rayleighprimary.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@rayleighprimary.org.uk) FAO Mrs Pettifer.

We really look forward to welcoming Christine and Ralph to the Rayleigh Primary team.

Mrs Pettifer and the Rayleigh Primary Team



Love Lane, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7DD Tel: 01268 775712

[www.rayleighprimary.org.uk](http://www.rayleighprimary.org.uk) E-mail: [office@rayleigh.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@rayleigh.essex.sch.uk).



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