



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

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Dear Reception and Nursery Parents/Carers,

A huge Rayleigh Primary School welcome to all our new families and children!

Ralph, our registered therapy dog, and his lovely owner Christine, will soon be coming back into Rayleigh Primary School to visit us! This was really successful last year and the children really loved to see him.

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 is 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 - demonstrating our values of being altruistic, ethical and pioneering.

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 are, of course, in place.

We recognise that some children may have allergies or a fear or worry about interacting with a dog. If you have a concern, we would ask you to register them via this [Google](#)



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

www.rayleighprimary.org.uk

E-mail: office@rayleigh.essex.sch.uk.



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[form](#) by Monday 14th September, 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 FAO Mrs Pettifer.

We really look forward to working with Ralph and Christine again!

Mrs Pettifer and the Rayleigh Primary Team (including a woof from Ralph!)



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