

To: All Parent/Carers

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Headteacher: Mr Gareth Yassin

15 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

K9 Deployment in School Today

This morning we welcomed K9 Deployment back into the school who offer a specialised search service. Twice a year we invite them in to work with the school and educate our students.

As a school we are always keen to ensure that whilst students are at school they are in a positive and safe environment. Like all schools, we work closely with the local Police and Children's Services and are aware of the potential threat of County Lines and its prevalence within Norfolk. So, as part of raising drug awareness in school. As part of the PD curriculum and to be able to allay any concerns that substances have been brought onto the school site, we have used this service today. I would like to assure you that the use of this service is simply to raise awareness and as a tool to ensure that the school remains a safe environment and that we do not have any concerns about drugs being brought onto the school premises.

During the visit, the dog checked lockers, toilets, vacated classrooms and school grounds for potential contraband items. When a vacated classroom was checked, students were asked to exit the classroom for 5 to 8 minutes and a member of staff accompanied them into the room. The canine team then sniffed the interior of the room including the air around the belongings left behind. At no point was the handler left alone in a room to ensure that possessions were not touched. The rooms that were visited were randomly picked upon during the day.

We ensured that any student identified with an allergy to dogs and pet dander was not brought into proximity with the dog and we also made first aid aware of this too. In addition to this we tried to be sensitive to anyone with anxiety or a phobia around dogs. If you have not informed the school of any allergies your child/ward may have, please contact the school office so that we can keep a record of this for future. If your child/ward has a phobia towards dogs and the school have not previously been informed of this, once again please contact the school office and we will keep a record so that your child/ward's classrooms are not visited during any future visits.

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It was a positive experience for the school and the students, with some interesting questions asked to the handler about his work and his dogs. Students particularly enjoyed meeting Rocky, the fox red Labrador at break time who is being trained in detecting explosives and off this afternoon to complete some work with his handler in London.

I am pleased to inform you that nothing was detected at school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Ricketts', written in a cursive style.

Miss R Ricketts
Deputy Headteacher