



Ribston Hall High School

Stroud Road, Gloucester, GL1 5LE
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22nd November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

It is with great excitement that we are able to announce that we will be joined in December by Foxy, an accredited Hearing Dog. This letter is to explain how this new addition to the Ribston staff body will be integrated into Ribston Hall in the next month.

A Hearing Dog is a working assistance dog, which has been highly trained to alert its owner to certain sounds. All hearing dogs, including Foxy go through a rigorous selection process. They are good-natured dogs and are not aggressive in anyway. Foxy will be assisting Miss Kate Mowatt, who as many of you will be aware, is profoundly deaf. Miss Mowatt will have had specialised training in the safe and effective way of using Foxy before she starts school with us. All accredited assistance dogs come with a 'passport' that shows that they are not a risk to health and hygiene. Foxy is groomed daily whilst her health and condition is checked regularly by a vet.

Foxy will accompany Miss Mowatt around the school and will be with her during lessons and in meetings. Foxy will be working during these times and will be wearing her burgundy jacket to highlight this; whilst Foxy is settled or working we will ask students and staff not to disturb or distract her. For the majority of the time we anticipate that Foxy will lie quietly on a small bed near Miss Mowatt's desk in either her classroom or her office. She should only interrupt meetings or lessons if Miss Mowatt needs to be notified to certain sounds and will nudge Miss Mowatt when she needs to be alerted.

Students and staff will **NOT FEED** Foxy. Her diet is carefully balanced and any extras may affect her health and also the way in which they work. We will also be asking students to take extra care whilst carrying food around the site and to pick up any food that they have dropped.

During the course of the day Foxy will be off duty and will be able to interact with students during these times. The welfare of both the students and Foxy will be paramount and any interaction between students and the dog will be at the discretion of Miss Mowatt.

Students will be introduced to Foxy and her role within school via a series of assemblies before she starts her work. Miss Mowatt will run these assemblies with support and will be able to answer any questions the students might have. Miss Mowatt will also talk to her classes as well.

Whilst Foxy is extremely well trained and has been frequently visiting school environments during her training to get used to students, we should point out that she is still a dog and that dogs can at times be excitable and may unintentionally scratch.

We will assume that you are happy for your daughter/son to interact with Foxy when she is off duty unless the form below is completed and returned to Reception.

If you would like to know more about hearing dogs, please contact:

HEARING DOGS FOR DEAF PEOPLE

TEL: 01844 348 100 - email: info@hearingdogs.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Colombini
Headteacher



Assistance Dogs (UK)

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Hearing Dogs ~ Foxy

I do NOT wish for _____ (Students name)
_____ (Tutor Group) to interact with Foxy during times when she is off duty.

Signed _____ (Parents Name) _____

Date _____

Please return this form to Reception, thank you.