 **Great Gaddesden Cof E (VA) Primary School**

 Headteacher: Mrs S.M.Wickens

 Great Gaddesden C of E Primary School

Church Meadow

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 Herts

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Dear Parents/Carers,

**School Dog**

I am writing to introduce you to our school dog, Donut, the Golden Retriever. (D:O:B - 01/03/17)

Research into the effects of therapy dogs in schools shows a wide range of benefits; including raised school attendance, increase in confidence, a decrease in learner anxiety behaviours resulting in improved learning outcomes.

Donut’s breeder is a dog behaviourist and prides herself on the nature and temperament of her dogs. His owner is Mrs Jessop, our senior teacher. As a puppy, they attended puppy training classes led by Mrs Tonge, a local dog trainer. He receives regular trips to the vets to have his coat and claws trimmed and Mrs Jessop ensures that he is always kept up-to-date with his relevant inoculations. When Donut isn’t out walking with the children, or having stories read to him, he relaxes in the library, usually under the table!

All children will receive instruction on how to work with Donut; including washing hands after stroking him, safe handling of animals. The children are encouraged to add their name to the ‘Dog Walking list’ which we have in school.

We understand that some children may be a little anxious and/or have allergies to dogs. Please complete the attached form and return to the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs S.M.Wickens

Headteacher

 My child is allergic/not allergic to dogs. (Please circle relevant answer.)

My child is anxious/not anxious around dogs. (Please circle relevant answer.)

Please provide additional details if needed

[ ] I give permission for my child to work with Donut.

[ ] I do not give permission for my child to work with Donut