



ST. BERNADETTE Catholic Primary School

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Headteachers: Mrs S.Lavelle-Murphy and Mrs J.Reilly

25th March 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After the Easter break, we are very excited to begin a new initiative in school that will support children's love of reading. We will be welcoming a 'Pets As Therapy' Certified dog into school named Yazmin, to take part in a reading programme, where a selected group of children will benefit from the support this can provide.

Through the support of our Reading Dog, Yazmin, we are aiming to:

- Improve foundational literacy skills- including boosting confidence in oracy skills
- Help lower anxiety and stress, and in turn, help to enhance students' self-esteem
- Encourage calm and positive social behaviours
- Provide companionship and help tackle feelings around loneliness

We will hold a special assembly, which will teach children how to interact safely and respectfully with our Reading Dog Yazmin. This will include learning how to approach the dog calmly, how to stroke a dog correctly (if invited to), and understanding the importance of giving the dog space when needed. Safety and wellbeing for both the children and the dog will **always** be our priority.

We are asking all parents to confirm that they are happy for their children to read with the dog and that your child/children has/have no allergies/phobias associated with dogs. Please log on to Arbor to confirm your consent. Please see our school policy attached for further information.

Please note, that we must receive consent at the latest by Tuesday 14th April.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do contact the school office team for further information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

S Lavelle Murphy & J Reilly

Mrs Lavelle-Murphy & Mrs Reilly
Co-Headteachers