

Friday 4 September 2026

Dear Parents and carers,

We are delighted to introduce the latest members of our Carterhatch school community: Bree, our wonderful Cockapoo and Milo, our wonderful Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. They will visit us almost daily, delighted to spend quality time with everyone in our school community.

Research shows that having a school dog can have an incredibly positive impact on a child's development and well-being.

About Bree

Bree is a member of Claire's family.

Cockapoos are an exceptional choice for a school dog due to their gentle, affectionate temperament, high intelligence, and strong desire to please. Inheriting the sharp intellect of the Poodle and the sweet, merry nature of the Cocker Spaniel, they are easy to train, quick to learn classroom routines, and naturally adept at reading human emotions.

About Milo

Milo is a member of Sarah's family.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel are bred as companion dogs due to their naturally gentle, patient, and affectionate nature. Their sweet disposition, easy going temperament and small size make them ideal companions. They are highly attuned to human emotions, making them excellent school dogs.

Why We Are Welcoming Bree and Milo to Our School:

- **Emotional Well-being:** Both dogs are frequently selected as school dogs because their gentle nature will help soothe anxious pupils and promote emotional well-being across the entire school community.
- **Confidence:** Working with the dogs will help boost reading confidence during 1-to-1 sessions and will reduce stress around dogs.
- **Social Development & Engagement:** Their sociable, friendly demeanour will allow them to bond easily with children without being overly intimidating.
- **Allergy-Conscious Breed:** Bree belongs to a hypoallergenic breed, meaning she produces minimal dander and doesn't drool. Her low-shedding coat is ideal for managing allergies within the school environment. Although

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no dog can be completely allergy-free, her breed type makes allergic reactions far less probable, as typical allergens (found in saliva and dander) don't easily disperse through her coat. To ensure optimal hygiene and comfort for everyone, she is also groomed on a routine basis.

Our Commitment to Safety and Well-being:

- **Direct Supervision:** The dogs will only ever be with children under direct, close, and continuous supervision. No child will ever be left unsupervised.
- **Full Risk Assessment & Insurance:** We hold a comprehensive risk assessments covering hygiene, allergies, behaviour, and supervision protocols. The school holds all necessary and appropriate insurance covering the dogs' presence on the premises.
- **Welfare:** The dogs have a designated safe, quiet space to retreat to in, and their interaction time with students is strictly managed to ensure they remains happy and relaxed.

We fully appreciate that some children may have allergies, phobias, or other sensitivities to dogs. While we ensure the dogs are kept away from specific areas (such as food preparation and dining areas), we provide parents with a clear choice.

If you would prefer your child to have absolutely no contact or interaction with the dogs, please inform us by contacting the school office, and we will ensure that this preference is logged, respected, and strictly adhered to.

We are excited about the positive impact Bree and Milo will bring to Carterhatch and look forward to welcoming them into our daily school life. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

The Carterhatch Team