



ST JOHN'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
FOOTSCRAY

INTRODUCING

Luna

SCHOOL WELLBEING DOG



WHO IS LUNA?



Luna belongs to Emily.

She was born on the 19th October 2022.

Luna is a Bordoodle. Her mum was a standard poodle and her dad was a border collie.

She currently weighs 19kg.

Emily has recently had her groomed so her fur is very short for the warmer weather.

She loves to be around people, especially if they are willing to give her a scratch.

At home, she loves to play chasey, fetch and her morning walks.

Luna is still a puppy and can sometimes get excited so Emily is working hard with her to be calm when she sees other dogs.

OTHER FUN FACTS ABOUT LUNA



Her favourite place to get a scratch is behind her two front legs. Luna's best friend is Pepper (a Brussel Griffon) who belongs to Emily's mum and dad.

She loves wearing her warmie in the cold weather.

She loves to chew her toys but is very good at not chewing anything else.

She is very fast and loves to play with children.

She can shake your hand, give a high five, and will sit and drop when you ask her.

She also loves treats



TRAINING & EXPERIENCES

As part of Luna's readiness to be a School Wellbeing Dog, Emily has tried to take Luna to lots of different places so she is use to all types of noises and smells.

Luna really loves the beach and walks in the bush where dogs are allowed on a leash.

Luna has also complete lots of obedience and behavioural training with Emily ever since she was a 12 weeks old.



LUNA AS SCHOOL WELLBEING DOG

Luna is currently still in training to be a School Wellbeing Dog. Emily and Luna completed a three day course together to ensure Luna has the correct temperament to be successful.

Before Luna is fully accredited, she needs to continue to practice building her stamina to sit or stay for long periods of time as well as ignoring some distractions. As a puppy who is almost one she just needs more time to practise and develop these skills.

On Friday, 10th November, Luna's trainer Madeline, will visit St John's to support Emily and Luna in ensuring the success and suitability of Luna becoming a School Wellbeing Dog.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ST JOHN'S

During this term Luna may be onsite at school familiarising herself with our school environment and staff.

With Madeline's support, Luna will practise working with some children from the 5/6 Hub initially.

Luna will be under the direct supervision of Emily at all times.

No other dogs are allowed onsite. Families who drop off/pick up with their dog on a lead, can continue to do so but at no time should they be allowed onto the school grounds.

Educators and Emily will work with the children to understand Luna's role at St John's.

At all times the safety and wellbeing of all, including Luna's, will be used to direct decision making around the use of a School Wellbeing Dog.

Regular updates will be shared with the community about Luna's progress and the ways she can support the wellbeing of the St John's community.



BENEFITS OF A SCHOOL WELLBEING DOG

- Reduced stress and anxiety.
- Increased school attendance.
- Increased confidence / self-esteem.
- Improved learning outcomes.
- More positive attitudes towards learning and improved motivation.
- Enhanced relationships with peers and teachers.
- Improved social and emotional skills.



LUNA'S ROLE AS SCHOOL WELLBEING DOG

- A calming effect on children
- Promotes for the children a sense of belonging and acceptance
- Increased participation
- Helping children develop confidence in reading as they sit a read to her
- Luna can work with groups of children or on a one to one basis and will especially help those children who are feeling vulnerable, have suffered trauma or are going through upsetting/difficult times.
- As a focus or context for learning, a school dog can provide an excellent resource and tangible motivation for children in all subject areas.
- The presence of a school dog may also be seen as an incentive for personal growth and achievement with time caring or playing with the dog seen as a reward.
- Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility, and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog.

