

Delta Therapy Dog Program

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so excited to inform you that Honey, our School Therapy Dog from the Delta Dogs Therapy Program, and her owner, Michelle will be visiting our school regularly. Delta Dogs Therapy Ltd is a national nonprofit organisation that helps animals and people bring joy to each other.

Honey will be a valuable addition to our school team to assist with educational support and provide affection and comfort to our students and staff.

Honey is a nine-year-old Golden Retriever and has been with The Delta Therapy Dogs Program for several years. Honey was identified



as having a suitable temperament required for the Delta Classroom Canines Program. She is a very easy going and fun-loving dog who enjoys the company of children. Honey will be fully supervised by her owner, Michelle and will always be on a lead and in the company of a Sydney Childrens Hospital School staff member.

At school, she will be engaging with students through individual and small group interventions in the classroom. This might include literacy development, pro-social skills, to encourage attendance and increase motivation, increase social connectedness and to contribute to improved mental health outcomes. All interactions with Honey are completely voluntary.

It has been well documented that dogs can decrease anxiety and benefit children's learning and development.

Students will be informed about procedures regarding animal handling and how Honey will fit into the school routine. To learn more please follow the link: <u>Dog Safety with Delta and Friends</u>

Honey will attend school one day per week, usually a Wednesday from 11:00am to 12:30pm. The SCHS staff are very excited to welcome Honey to our team, and we look forward to seeing our students thrive from future interactions.

Please ensure you inform staff if your child has a dog allergy.

Yours Sincerely

Elizabeth Papayiannis Acting Principal Vanessa Turansky Deputy Principal