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Hector

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with great sadness that I write to share the news that Hector, our much-loved community dog and faithful companion, has passed away.

For almost 10 years, Hector has been a cherished and familiar member of our school family. Accompanying Rita during her time with us, he brought comfort, companionship and joy to generations of children, staff and visitors. His calm presence, friendly nature and unwavering loyalty, made him a truly special part of life at our school.

Whilst we mourn his loss, we are thankful that Rita will continue to be part of our school community as a valued volunteer.

As a school family, we understand that this news will affect everyone differently. For some children, Hector was a much-loved friend; for others, this may be their first experience of loss. We therefore ask, where possible, that you share this news with your child before they come into school, as we will be providing opportunities for discussion, reflection and remembrance in a supportive and age-appropriate way.

As a Christian school, we find comfort in God's word and are reminded to be thankful for the gifts we receive throughout our lives. A verse that may help guide conversations at home is:

*"Every good and perfect gift is from above."
James 1:17*

This verse reminds us that the people, experiences and relationships that enrich our lives, are precious gifts. Although our time with them may not last forever, we can give thanks for the joy they bring and the memories they leave behind. As a school community, we are deeply grateful for the gift that Hector was to us all.

Several members of the community, have kindly asked whether there will be an opportunity to make a donation in Hector's memory. We are currently considering a number of ways to celebrate and commemorate his remarkable contribution to our school community and will share further details once these plans have been finalised.

Mr Hulme and Mr Johnson are similarly saddened by this news and will be working alongside the school to prepare a fitting service of remembrance in due course, providing an opportunity for us all to celebrate Hector's life and reflect on the many happy memories he leaves behind.

At times such as these, we are reminded of the importance of community, compassion and gratitude. Whilst we grieve the loss of a treasured friend, we also celebrate the countless smiles, moments of comfort and happy memories that Hector gave to so many over the years.

Please keep Rita and her husband Andrew in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Stephen Emmett
Head of School