

Our Therapy Dog Murphy



What is a Therapy Dog?

A therapy dog is a trained animal that provides comfort and affection to children who need it under the guidance of their owner/handler. They are a working animal, not just a pet.

Our Therapy dog is Murphy and he has experience working in a school. He is on a lead at all times and will be based in Matarawa with his handler, Kylie Forlong for one day a week during this trial period.

Why a Therapy Dog at Taumata?

A Therapy dog supports the emotional and relational development of students. Pet therapy is proven to support the regulation of emotions as well as support students to understand dog behaviour under the careful guidance of his handler.

Like any working dog, Murphy will wear a vest at all times which is signal to him that he is working and he has been trained to toilet on command!

Links to our Curriculum

Having a Therapy Dog supports personalised learning. Murphy will work with students who will benefit from his company, always around his handler and only when a relationship has been built under the guidance of his handler.

It also aligns to our principle of Authentic Learning, allowing students the opportunity to learn about safely interacting with animals in a purposeful way.