



# Essendon C of E (VC) Primary School

*Encouraging everyone's light to shine. Matthew 5:16*

## Our Chosen Charities

Our charity fundraising through the year is split between two charities.

The pupils voted for their preferred charity. This is also a fantastic way for our pupils to live out the British value of Democracy.

This year the children have chosen to sponsor two puppies-one called Hebe, who is training to be a hearing dog and the other puppy is called Parsnip, who is training to be a guide dog for the blind. The children just couldn't decide which one, so we took a whole school vote and divided the money in two so we could support one of each charity.

We also donate our Harvest gifts to Welwyn & Hatfield Women's Refuse.



## Guide Dogs for the blind



The Welwyn & Hatfield Women's Refuge provides a safe place for women, with or without children, who are fleeing domestic violence.

They have been the recipients of our harvest gifts for many years and continue to be supported by St Mary's church.

It is wonderful that church and school can work in partnership in supporting this wonderful lifeline for so many families locally.

### How guide dogs are trained?

Guide dogs go on a comprehensive training journey where they're supported by a team of health, wellbeing and training experts, encompassing three main stages before they can be matched to someone who is visually impaired.

From birth to eight weeks old, our sponsored guide dog begin their journey in the warm embrace of a dedicated breeding dog volunteer's home, alongside their guide dog mum. During this critical phase, they're immersed in early socialisation, becoming accustomed to various people, sounds, smells, textures, and home environments, both indoors and in the garden.

### What Are Hearing Dogs?

Hearing dogs are assistance dogs trained to help deaf or profoundly hearing-impaired adults and children by alerting them to everyday sounds they might otherwise miss, including smoke alarms, doorbells, alarm clocks, baby cries, and telephone rings. Instead of barking, these dogs use touch to get attention and lead their partner to the sound source, lying down to indicate a fire alarm or emergency situation.