

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY, Monday 24th January

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Today we had a visit from Liz Saunders and Tex. They came to tell us about the excellent work that the charity "Guide Dogs for the Blind" carries out. Here is some interesting information that she gave to us:

AIM The aim of the charity is to enable people who can't see to get around on their own. The human and the dog form a partnership.

In one year the work of the charity will:

Breed about 1,000 puppies

Train about 800 new Guide Dogs

Look after 8,000 dogs in total and this includes

- The breeding dogs (Mums and Dads, usually Golden Retriever/Labrador mix)
- Puppies
- Dogs in training
- Working guide dogs
- Dogs enjoying retirement

In addition to the money given to the charity, they depend on volunteers to help out in the following ways:

- Speakers, like Liz, who visit schools and other venues to raise awareness
- Fundraising
- Puppy walking
- Boarding dogs

All in all it takes about 18 months to 2 years to train a dog, and the cost of a Guide Dog is £48,500.

A big “thank you” to Liz for visiting us this morning.

In the past we have taken up a coin collection on Friday mornings to help this charity. We are planning to do this again commencing this week.

