

Hamish Newshounds meet Lynn and Yoko

This terms Hamish Newshound's project was *Guide Dogs*. We invited a kind lady named Lynn to help us with this project. First of all, we prepared a variety of questions, long and short, for Lynn to try her best to answer. Lynn was partially sighted, so she needed a guide dog to help her with her sight. Her guide dog's name was 'Yoko', she was a red Labrador and she is basically Lynn's eyes.

Lynn and Yoko

Lynn got Yoko from Leamington spa at the age of nearly 2 years old. She has owned Yoko for just about 2 years and Yoko has been helpful as Yoko was trained a bit before to be a guide dog and it worked out perfectly. It has only been Yoko and Lyn in their house but they are always happy together. Yoko is 4 years old and is Lynn's second guide dog as Lynn sadly lost her first one. Yoko can be afraid of loud noises especially on bonfire night but that doesn't stop Lyn from liking Yoko.

A normal day for Lynn and Yoko is: Yoko wakes Lynn up, Lynn goes to the bathroom, they have breakfast, then they either go shopping or go to schools to talk about *Guide Dogs* and *Guide Dogs UK*. At about 6:00pm they will have a snuggle time. Yoko is a very playful dog and randomly her favourite toy is from ASDA and is a ball with HAPPY HALLOWEEN written on it. Funnily, Yoko's favourite thing is food. Lynn calls Yoko by saying "Yoko come!" or by blowing a whistle 3 times. Yoko finds it difficult to walk at Lynn's speed because she is very fast. Also, she finds it hard to cope when there are fireworks because they are loud and she will normally freeze when one goes off.

Whenever Lynn calls Yoko, she knows that the canine is there because Yoko has a bell that rings. Also whenever it isn't safe to cross the road Yoko sits at the kerb. .Lynn can see but she cannot see what colour our eyes are or what colour our hair is. Luckily she can see our faces and what colour our shirts are.Lynn has been able to go everywhere with Yoko. Although she can go to new places with Yoko she often finds it difficult.

We asked Lynn if life is a lot easier with a guide dog because it makes life a lot more fun and said it changes everything in a whole new way.Lastly Lynn lost her sight from a driving, a bus crashed into her, she lost part of her sight and now can't drive.

Guide Dog Training

The guide dogs train at Leamington Spa and learn to take commands. Yoko is about four and has trained since he was only 8 weeks old! The average cost would be 56,000 pounds! But Lynne got Yoko for 50p. As said before, guide dogs are trained from 8 weeks old and after a year and they move on to advanced training! Yoko was only 2 years old when Lynne got her. So that means she has had her for 2 years.

We really enjoyed the time spent with Lynn. After gathering every possible piece of information, we guided Lynn and Yoko to a whole school assembly. In assembly, Lynn kindly explained to the school what a guide dog is and the main jobs of a guide dog. Children were very pleased to see Yoko and everyone there had adored her. Afterwards, we had a non-uniform day, anyone could dress up as a dog or just non-uniform as long as they brought in £1 for Guide Dogs UK. We successfully raised a total of £416! We would like to thank everyone who took part in this amazing dress up day and everyone who brought in that pound or even donated extra!



Year 5 pupils; Mia, Grace, Evie, Isabelle and Brennan