**Autumn Newsletter 2018-19**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a great time over the summer holidays and made some fantastic memories.

This year our team is Cat, Vikki, Amber, Kori, Mahi, Ellen, Donna and we welcome Emily, Emma and Hazel as new team members. Gemma Cooke is our occupational therapist and Emily Searle (nee Martin) is our speech and language therapist. We are all looking forward to the year ahead and seeing what your children can achieve.

This term the class topic will be fantastical forests which will include looking at the enchanted forest, trees and minibeasts.

We will focus on the following areas of learning:

* In communication, we will be looking at speaking with others as well as doing more handwriting to develop our skills further. This will be integrated into all our sessions and throughout the school day. Our communication sessions will include individualised and group work which Cat, Emily and Gemma plan together in order to see the children make progress across the curriculum.
* This term, we are going to explore direction. We will be looking at and using compasses, following simple maps and learning to direct a Beebot forwards, backwards, left and right.

Our speech and language therapist, Emily, will continue to work on individualised programmes with the students using their preferred method of communication (PECS, symbol support, verbal language, shape coding). This may take place on an individual basis and/or through group sessions, such as Lego therapy, where students are supported and encouraged to interact with each other to complete a motivating task, and narrative therapy, where the students are supported to develop their vocabulary and underlying skills needed to be able to retell an event or sequence of events.

In occupational therapy sessions this term, the students will continue to develop their independence in different areas such as self-care and community access. Individual occupational therapy sessions will focus on each student’s individual goals surrounding independence and emotional regulation. This term occupational therapy sessions will also incorporate play skills to help develop the social interaction skills of each student through play and fine motor skills to increase independence. Students will engage in any relevant sensory programmes to develop self-regulation using motivating activities. These targets will be worked on using both group and individual sessions enabling opportunity to review and change sessions to ensure the students are being provided with opportunity to meet full potential.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us on (Cat) c.morrow@percyhedley.org.uk, (Emily) emily.searle@percyhedley.org.uk and (Gemma) g.cooke@percyhedley.org.uk

Best wishes,

Cat and Team