**Winter Newsletter 2018-19**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see all the pupils back after the Christmas break and hear all about what they had been doing during the festive period. All the pupils have settled in quickly and are eager to get back to work. We are really excited about our new topic; ‘Popular Culture’ with the topic learning goal; to take part in a range of game shows such as ‘Fun House’ and ‘The Great British Bake Off’ during Enrichment week. This topic will be embedded throughout the whole curriculum.

This term, pupils will continue to do lots of community based learning, including café visits in Jesmond where the pupils will have the opportunity to transfer their communication and numeracy skills into a functional community setting.

We will be continuing to visit the Tim Lamb Activity Centre on a Thursday morning to use their sensory rooms, trampolines and playgrounds, and during the afternoons, we will be visiting a variety of local country parks to go for a walk. Please ensure that pupils come to school that day with appropriate clothing and footwear for the activity and the weather.

Pupils will continue their individual swimming lessons on a Monday and will take part in PE on a Friday. Please ensure that you provide appropriate swimming attire and a towel for this lesson. We can keep these at school and wash them each week.

In speech and language therapy sessions we will continue to develop each pupil’s communication skills, social skills and relationships through their preferred method of communication (verbal, sign, PECS, VOCA and gesture) in a variety of motivating sessions throughout the week. These areas will be targeted in a range of group and individual settings and will be reviewed throughout the year to ensure we are provided appropriate and effective input.

In occupational therapy sessions this term the pupils will continue to develop their independence in different areas such as self-care and community access. Individual occupational therapy sessions will focus on each pupil’s level of independence and building on this. This term occupational therapy sessions will also incorporate play skills to help develop the social interaction skills of each student through play. Each pupil will also engage in any relevant sensory programmes to develop self-regulation using activities that each pupil is motivated by. These targets will be worked on using both group and individual sessions enabling opportunity to review and change sessions to ensure the pupils are being provided with opportunity to meet full potential.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us on

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Best wishes,

Jen and team