**Autumn Newsletter 2018-19**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! It was lovely to see all the pupils back after the summer holidays and hear all about what they had been doing during the break. All the pupils have settled in quickly and are eager to get started with the new academic year.

This term the class topic will be Fantastical Forests. We have the topic learning goal to take part in a Forest School Day; campfire cooking, shelter building and a variety of outdoor challenges. This topic will be embedded throughout the curriculum.

Monday will be the pupil’s swimming lessons, 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.

Community visits will be continuing on a Thursday. In the mornings, our class will be accessing the Tim Lamb Activity Centre and in the afternoon the pupils will be accessing a variety of country parks and forests in the local area. Please ensure that pupils come to school that day with appropriate clothing and footwear for the activity and the weather.

This year there have been a few changes to our staff team. Carra-Lynn Lindsay will be the class lead speech and language therapist, and Gemma Cooke will be taking over the role as occupational therapist. The therapists will be working closely with myself and will be delivering a variety of therapeutic lessons throughout the school 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, 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 [j.dwyer@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:j.dwyer@percyhedley.org.uk), [g.cooke@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:g.cooke@percyhedley.org.uk), [c.lindsay@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:c.lindsay@percyhedley.org.uk)

Best wishes

Jen and team