**Autumn Newsletter 2018-19**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and I hope you all had an amazing summer and ready for the year ahead. All the pupils in our class have settled in well and we have really enjoyed hearing about what they have been doing over the summer holidays.

Our topic this term is woodlands and forests. We will be doing a range of activities associated with this topic including making woodlands, forest school activities and woodland walks.

The book we will be focusing on is ‘Pirates Love Underpants’ and our classroom will be transformed into an underwater scene including art work design by the pupils in our class.

We will be continuing to go out on community access sessions and this term pupils will be visiting various woods and forests in the North East including Chopwell woods, Plessy woods and Jesmond Dene.

As a class we will be continuing to focus on communication and pupils will have the opportunity to practice communication skills within break and lunchtime periods and within communication, community access and social skills sessions with assistance from our speech and language therapist Ashleigh.

In occupational therapy sessions with Shauna we will continue to focus on developing each student’s ability to self-regulate and improve our social skills. As part of our forest theme this term, we will be exploring We’re Going on a Bear Hunt presented as a sensory story within our communication group. In our communication in the community sessions, some students we will be accessing shops and cafés in the local area as part of our smiLE programme, which focuses on developing appropriate social skills within daily living tasks. Students will also be accessing an emotions group this term, to increase student’s understanding of different emotions and what we can do to help when we feel this way.

Pamela will continue to teach music and Kerry will be teaching PE within our class as usual.

We are all very excited about the activities and lessons we have planned surrounding this theme.

If you have any further questions you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

Jess, Shauna, Ashleigh and the team.