**Winter Newsletter 2018-19**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

This year our full time Special Support Assistants are Nichola Blair, Tiffany Dodds, Brooke Normand, Yvonne Walker and Cassie Goymer. Our part time Special Support assistants are Jooli Goodinson, Nancy Casey, Rachel Taylor and Tracey Mitchell. Sam Dowling is the teacher for the group on a Tuesday.

This term the class topic will be **Food and Drink**.

We will focus on the following areas of learning:

* Extending vocabulary for everyday food and drink items.
* Develop language linked to food and drinks, such as, ‘enough,’ ‘thirsty,’ and ‘choice.’
* To be able to express likes and dislikes in appropriate ways and get their needs met.
* Developing an awareness of individual food programmes, specialist diets, and equipment needed for feeding and develop a deeper understanding as to why different people have different food options.
* Preparing drinks and snacks (ASDAN Personal Progress Entry 1 Module.)
* Following recipes
* Time – When do we eat? Sequencing our day and beginning to identify regular times using a clock.
* Healthy and unhealthy food and drink choices
* Investigating where food comes from. Visiting farms.
* Science and Food – use by dates, rotting, growing mould, making yoghurt, reversible and irreversible changes when heating and cooling food.
* Food in religions – Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day.) Fasting / giving up foods (Lent/ Eid.) Investigating Easter Eggs! Engaging in multisensory stories linked to the Bible.

In speech and language therapy sessions we will be continuing to develop SmiLE skills (Strategies in Measureable Live English.) This involves practising the strategies needed to communicate effectively with non-signing people in the community and get their needs and wants met when ordering food and drink. We encourage them to be as independent as possible when in the community and practise the skills they have been learning in the classroom in a real life setting.

In occupational therapy sessions we will be developing fine and gross motor control within the ‘Developing Independent Living Skills’ modules of ASDAN Personal Progress Entry 1. Keeping safe, looking after your own home and preparing drinks and snacks will be the areas we are focussing on throughout this term.

In physiotherapy sessions, many of the students will be participating in group physiotherapy sessions every Wednesday afternoon to develop overall balance, control and co-ordination.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me via phone, email m.tyreman@percyhedley.org.uk or via the home school diary if you would like to discuss anything further.

Best wishes,

Mairead Tyreman (Class Teacher / Teacher of the Deaf)