**Autumn Newsletter 2018-19**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope you have had a lovely break and have had lots of fun with your children. The weather has been great and we hope you managed to enjoy some of it. We have missed the children and we were thrilled to see them again on Wednesday

We welcome Dawn Walker, Linda Hedgecock and Lucy Davies to our team this year and look forward to working with them. All three are established members of staff that have worked within NCS in other classes therefore have some knowledge of our class.

This term the class topic will be ‘Hobbies and interests’ which will enable us to discover and learn more about the children’s likes and dislikes. This will also help us to tailor the sessions to their interests. We will introduce the children to familiar and new resources and experiences and monitor their reactions. We would be very grateful if you could let us know what their great likes are at home that we could include within their school day.

We have introduced a new engagement curriculum which is linked to a new assessment tool called iASEND which will monitor your child’s progress as well as highlighting areas of need. The curriculum will still be delivered within the three main areas of their sensory, physical and communication needs which will be individual to each child. Each session delivered will still be just as motivating and engaging as before with lots of fun and enjoyment. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information regarding this area

Nicola Leonard, our SaLT, will continue to focus on and develop the students’ individual communication methods, through a variety of approaches. This term, this will include; social communication sessions, switching sessions and 1:1 intensive interactions.

In OT sessions led by Michele McCafferty, she will be focusing on seating, postural management and hand function. Gemma James (physiotherapist) and Michele will be carrying out postural management assessments for all students on their caseload this term. This will assist us when assessing and advising on seating/standing and postural management in the classroom. Please contact us if you have any concerns regarding your child’s postural needs.

The physiotherapist will continue to maximise the student’s physical activity throughout the curriculum including motor sessions, hydrotherapy and rebound. We are also keen to discuss and support the students being active in their home and leisure time.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us on p.wiltshire@percyhedley.org.uk, n.leonard@percyhedley.org.uk and m.mccafferty@percyhedley.org.uk

Best wishes,

Pam and the team