**Winter Newsletter 2018-19**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school for 2019! I hope everyone has had a lovely Christmas period and a Happy New Year.

Firstly I would like to say what a pleasure it has been for me to get to know the class over the last term. We had a fantastic time learning together and exploring new resources in school.

This year our team remains much the same with Sharon, Julie, Linda, Amy and Sue working 1:1 with the students. We welcome a new student into class and anticipate a new member of staff to join us soon too. I will be sure to introduce them to you as soon as possible. Our therapy team continues to be Ashleigh Richardson (SaLT), Michele McCafferty (OT) and Gemma James (Physiotherapist). We are also fortunate to receive support from Michelle Lisgo (OT assistant), Steph Richards (SaLT assistant), Pamela McGahon (Music teacher) and welcome Lauren Tate who will be leading our art sessions.

This term the class topic will be animals and we have selected six key animals to focus on over the term; elephant, giraffe, lion, monkey, rhino and crocodile. We plan to link our work to the story of Noah’s Ark and will focus on a different animal for two weeks at a time.

We will focus on the following areas of learning:

* Peer interaction – we are aware there are lots of adults in our environment and plan to dedicate time to really encouraging the pupils to interact with each other.
* The magic carpet has been a fantastic resource and we hope to incorporate it into our work as much as possible. For example, encouraging independent movement to access different games and developing anticipation and understanding of cause and effect.

In speech and language therapy sessions we will continue to work on choice making and developing understanding of cause and effect through eye gaze and touch screen technology.

In occupational therapy sessions we will continue to participate in weekly hand function work using the light panel. We will also continue to access a range of different resources such as corner seats, wedges and standing frames as appropriate.

In physiotherapy sessions we will continue to work towards individual motor targets, implementing postural management and ensuring student’s access to physical activity through a variety of different sessions, including motor group, hydrotherapy and rebound therapy.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries or questions via the home/school diary, class mobile, e mail (r.field@percyhedley.org.uk) or by popping into school. I am looking forward to another brilliant term working with your young people!

Best wishes,

Ros Field