**Whole School Newsletter**

**Autumn 2018-19**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been fantastic to see all the students back in school and to welcome some new students to their classes. As ever we held a highly successful summer school during the first two weeks of the holidays and this year it was attended by over 30 students. Huge thanks are due to all of the staff involved who arranged a wide range of exciting extension activities for the students to enjoy.

Following requests in the last parent survey your child’s class newsletter has been changed in style to include more detail about what they are learning and their therapeutic input. I would be very grateful for any feedback about this. Please also note that home school diaries can be individualised so if there is something you’d like more information about please do let the class team know.

The maintenance team have been busy throughout the summer decorating many parts of school and liaising with a range of contractors to oversee the fitting of overhead hoists, new flooring and windows. We also expect some other sensory and therapy rooms to be completed in the next few weeks.

It was great to see the launch of the EARWIG Academic timeline just before end of the last school year and I hope that you have been able to see what your child has been learning through this site. Some of the photographic and video evidence has been superb and this is an excellent way of sharing your child’s learning with you at home. To access your child’s timeline you need to go to [www.earwig.com](http://www.earwig.com) and login with your password that was sent to your email address via EARWIG.

On Wednesday 3rd October at 11am as part of our first coffee morning this year we are offering parents the opportunity to use the computers to access EARWIG and a chance to ask for assistance or a general chat about the site. We have been informed that some parent emails have bounced back therefore they have not been able to access EARWIG. If you have any difficulties please do not hesitate to contact the school or EARWIG directly through their site.

Coffee mornings are an opportunity to meet with the class teacher and therapists to discuss your child’s progress and to meet other parents. We really hope that lots of you are able to attend this year.

Attendance at school is vital and it is expected that every effort will be made for pupils who are well to attend. If your child has a medical appointment please let the class teacher know and, if at all possible, they should attend school either before or after the appointment.

Please do get in touch if you need me to help with anything j.allen@percyhedley.org.uk or ring the school 0191 281 5821 if you would like to arrange an appointment with me for chat.

See you soon,



Jo Allen

Head of School

**Dates for your diary**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Autumn Term** |  |
| Formal opening of Forest School | Wednesday 19th September 12-1.30pm |
| Coffee morning and EARWIG workshop | Wednesday 3rd October 2018 10-12pm  |
| Last day for pupils | Friday 26th October 2018 |
| ***Half term*** | ***29th October to 2nd November 2018*** |
| Staff training day  | Monday 5th November 2018 |
| Pupils return to school | Tuesday 6th November 2018 |
| Christmas fair | Saturday 1st December 2018 |
| Christmas performance | Thursday 20th December 2018 |
| Last day for pupils | Friday 21st December 2018 |
| **Spring Term** |  |
| Pupils return to school | Monday 7th January 2019 |
| Coffee morning | Wednesday 30th January 2019 10-12pm |
| Last day for pupils | Friday 15th February 2019 |
| ***Half term***  | ***18th to 22nd February 2019*** |
| Pupils return to school | Monday 25th February 2019 |
| Last day for pupils | Friday 5th April 2019 |
| **Summer Term** |  |
| Pupils return to school | Tuesday 23rd April 2019 |
| Last day for pupils | Friday 24th May 2019 |
| ***Half term***  | ***27th to 31st May 2019*** |
| Pupils return to school | Monday 3rd June 2019 |
| Coffee morning | Wednesday 19th June 2019 10-12pm |
| Summer Picnic and Leavers’ Assembly | Thursday 18th July 2019 |
| Last day for pupils | Friday 19th July 2019 |

The academic year 2019-20 will begin on Monday 2nd September with a non-teaching day. Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 5th September 2019.