**Autumn Newsletter 2019-20**

**Longsands Class**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome all the children back into school last week and hear about all their stories about what they had done over the summer.

This year we have a new name, we are going to be called Longsands Class. We have a few small changes to our team we have: Lisa, Hayley, Lucy and Claire and have Sharon and Sarah joining us from other PMLD classes and we also have Jessica joining the team. Julia will be in the class on a Thursday afternoon. We continue to have Michele McCafferty as OT, Nicola Leonard will be working with a new SaLT called Mollie Henaghan who will be introduced to our class and will be working with us from half term. We still have Sophia Ward as physio until the end of the month when we will have Nicole.

This term the class topic will be ‘water’ which we have linked into a number of sessions to ensure that all senses are covered. The interactive story is ‘Puddles’ by Joanna Grace where the children are taken on a journey from stepping into a puddle and then swimming through the ocean and feeling fishes swimming past their skin. It will be led by Pam and Julia and we will explore various textures and smells. We have a new massage story called ‘water’ where we will experience the many forms that water can take. In sensory art we will explore different mediums to create art following the theme of water.

We will focus on the following areas of learning:

* Intensive Interaction – children will be supported 1:1 to respond to interactions from an adult and the adult to respond to interactions from the child. This will develop turn taking and communication skills.
* Sensory Exploration – children will be given the opportunity to explore stimuli related to the topic of water. We will note likes and dislikes and other reactions.

In speech and language therapy sessions we will continue to focus on engaging with peers in sessions such as; social games and intensive interaction. In addition, students will be continuing to focus on the development of ICT skills in partnership with the occupational therapist. This will develop skills in the areas of switching and eyegaze.

In physiotherapy sessions we 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.

In occupational therapy sessions we will continue to use the sensory room equipment, Magic carpet, seating assessments and postural assessments will be carried out for every pupil.

As always, please get in touch if you have any questions either by the home school diary, phone, email, or pop into school. We look forward to working with your children over the next academic year.

Best wishes

Pam and the Longsands class team

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