**Spring Newsletter 2019-20**

**Longsands Class**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all have had a fantastic Christmas and New Year festive season and it was great to see all the children coming back to school with big smiles.

Our team still consists of: Lisa, Hayley, Nicola, Lucy, Claire, Sarah, Jess and Kim. Julia will continue to be in the class on a Thursday afternoon. We continue to have Michele McCafferty as OT and Mollie Henaghen as SaLT. We still have Gemma James overlooking the physiotherapy whilst a new physio has her induction into our school.

This term the class topic will be ‘Light and Dark’ which we have linked into a number of sessions to ensure that all senses are covered in an exciting way that will make the session much more engaging. The interactive story is ‘The Owl who was afraid of the Dark’ by Jill Tomlinson where the children are taken on a journey through the woods with the owl and experience many new stimuli. It will be led by Pam and Julia and we will explore various textures, smells and new resources.

We introduced two new sessions last term within the individual timetables for each pupil. Dough Disco is a jolly hand function session with music where the pupils explore a range of ‘doughs’ whilst incorporating finger stretches/movements and Music & Movement lead by the OTs which involve a range of stretches and movements to fast, up beat music. These two sessions have certainly increased engagement within all pupils.

In January all the pupils within this cohort will take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch organised by the RSPB within the week of the 27th January. We have already sent for the exciting Bird Watching pack and are all ready to engage in all tasks involved.

In speech and language therapy sessions peer interaction continues to be a focus to increase communication between all pupils. In addition, pupils 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 eye gaze.

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, Julia and the Longsands class team

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| **Class teacher** | **OT** | **SALT** |
| Pam Wiltshire p.wiltshire@percyhedley.org.uk | Michele McCafferty m.mccafferty@percyhedley.org.uk | Mollie Henaghan m.henaghan@percyhedley.org.uk  |

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| **Physio** |
| Gemma Jamesgemma.james1@nhs.net |

Don’t forget there will be a photographer onsite on Tuesday 28th January to take school photos of our students.