**Spring Newsletter 2019-20**

**Warkworth Class**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to welcome everybody back after the Christmas holidays. We hope you all had a lovely break and it’s great to see all of our students ready for the new term. Our class team remains the same alongside our therapists; Ashleigh Richardson our Speech and Language Therapist and Shauna Garrity our Occupational Therapist.

We are very excited about this terms topic ‘Superheroes’. Within communication, through narrative therapy and sensory story students will develop their understanding of ‘wh’ words, answering simple questions about stories and characters as well as sequencing events. We will use the colourful semantics and shape coding approaches to develop writing skills in extending word choices and structuring language to form sentences. In numeracy our focus for this term is around data; collecting and recording data from peers and staff using tally charts and recognising and using coins. Science will focus on forces where students will take part in practical experiments and investigations making emergency vehicles powered by different forces and exploring how to make them move and what affects the speed and direction. Students will follow instructions to set up and carry out investigations and record using pictures, symbols and words.

In other sessions activities will link with our topic theme with a focus on reading and following instructions, making choices and communicating ideas. In food technology students will follow and make healthy recipes using ‘superfoods’ and use to make our own superhero cookbook. We will explore the comic book style of artist Roy Lichtenstein in art and use to create our own pieces of work. Within forest school we will develop shared working, contributing to tasks through responding to ideas, making choices and sharing resources and spaces engaging in activities including making superhero costumes and hideouts. Our humanities topic links with the theme of ‘local heroes’ finding out about the lives of Grace Darling and George Stephenson through practical activities such as making a model lighthouse and life boat.

We will continue with weekly visits to the supermarket and local shops to enable students to generalise skills across settings and apply within functional contexts. This will focus on carrying out the steps of the routine with increasing independence, coin recognition and responding to mathematical vocabulary and individual work with students engaging in smILE therapy. As part of our community access we will continue to visit the Tim Lamb centre where students are encouraged to make choices of new and preferred activities and apply communication and social skills within everyday situations.

In therapy sessions students will engage with weekly narrative therapy beginning with the story of Spiderman where pupil’s will develop their understanding of characters, events and emotions within the story and their ability to comment upon these. Our new sensory story ‘Charlie the firefighter’ will enable students to practice interacting appropriately with each other, making requests for story items, sharing and taking turns with peers. We will continue to focus on social communication and interaction skills through directed play, developing their ability to share activities and interact using a range of activities including jewellery therapy and turn taking games this term. Our occupational therapist will also continue to lead a weekly motor skills session to develop fine motor skills with students taking part in a range of motivating tasks such as threading to make Spiderman’s web and superhero stretchy slime to practice letter formation to target individual needs and support handwriting skills. As always 1:1 occupational and speech and language therapy sessions will focus on each students individual targets and support to engage in any relevant sensory programmes to enable self-regulation.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us on 0191 2815821 or the below email addresses

Best wishes

Michelle, Megan and the Warkworth class team

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| **Physio** | | |
| NHS team on referral | | |

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