**Autumn Newsletter 2020-21**

**Embleton Class**

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all – welcome back! What a strange year it has been! It has been so lovely for myself and the team to welcome your young people back to school. The girls have all settled well and it has been so good to have a bit of routine back.

We have had a few changes this term; our friend Darcy has moved to a new class and we all wish her good luck! Our staff team has changed a little and the students are currently supported by Amy, Sharon, Jill, Rebecca, Nikita and our new team member Hayley. Hayley has worked in the PMLD cohort for a while now and I will introduce you to her whenever possible. Our SaLT, Ashleigh, will be supporting us virtually using video calls and is still available via email for any queries. Michele is currently off but we look forward to seeing her again in a few weeks. Finally, Roz Middleton (sorry two Ros’!) joined us around Easter time and will be leading physiotherapy sessions in school.

This term the class topic is “to infinity and beyond!” and we have already started exploring space! We will be visiting other planets during our sensory story and making our own papier mache planets in art.

After such a strange end to last year, we will focus on the following areas of learning:

* Returning to school – this is a big transition for the students after a significant period of time at home. We will be focusing on student’s mental wellbeing and ensuring everyone settles back into school well. To support this we will be designing our own happiness boxes filled with things we like!
* Access to therapies – it’s been lovely to get back on the trampoline! Again, after a long period at home, we are focussing on students getting access to the activities which may not have been possible for a while (e.g. rebound, magic carpet, light stimulation). Unfortunately the hydro pool will be closed a little longer but we are working towards making this safe to access.

Our speech and language therapy sessions continue to focus on social games and turn taking, and a sensory story – with Ashleigh joining us virtually!

In occupational therapy sessions we will be continuing to access IT and developing skills in ICT. We have also started a new “music and movement” session where OT staff support the students with fine and gross body movements to different songs – the “cha cha slide” has been a hit!

In physiotherapy sessions we will continue to work towards our individual motor targets and participate in group games, integrating our therapy into our daily work. Roz will also lead weekly sessions to focus on individual skills.

Best wishes,

Ros and the Embleton class team ☺

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| **Class Teacher** | **OT** | **SALT** |
| Ros Field  [r.field@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:r.field@percyhedley.org.uk) | Michele McCafferty  [m.mccafferty@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:m.mccafferty@percyhedley.org.uk) | Ashleigh Richardson  [a.richardson@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:a.richardson@percyhedley.org.uk) |

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| **Physio –** on referral |
| Roz Middleton - [nuth.physio.ncs@nhs.net](mailto:nuth.physio.ncs@nhs.net) |