**Autumn Newsletter 2020-21**

**Lindisfarne Class**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! It was lovely to see all the pupils back after the summer holidays. We hope you have enjoyed the summer break despite the current circumstances.

Our class team consists of Jen Dunn as class teacher, Rachel Peaty as higher level teaching assistant, Gemma Cooke as occupational therapist and Mollie Henaghan as speech and language therapist.

All the pupils have settled in quickly and are eager to get started with the new academic year. We are really excited about our new topic “Dinosaurs”. The post 14 curriculum will also focus on preparation for adulthood, which will include individualised work related learning, independence and daily living skills. Pupils will continue to participate in functional skills lesson, with Maths, English and ICT embedded throughout the entire curriculum.

Students will participate in weekly hiking and swimming sessions so if possible could you please provide appropriate equipment such as swim wear, a towel, hiking boots or similar and waterproofs. We can keep these items safe in school or send them home if that is preferred.

In speech and language therapy sessions we will continue to develop each pupil’s communication skills, social skills and relationships through their preferred method of communication (verbal, sign, PECS, gesture) in a variety of motivating sessions throughout the week. These areas will be delivered in a range of group and individual settings and will be reviewed throughout the year to ensure we are providing appropriate and effective input

In occupational therapy sessions this term the pupils will continue to develop their independence in different areas such as self-care and community access. Individual occupational therapy sessions will focus on each pupil’s level of independence and building on this. This term occupational therapy sessions will also incorporate play skills to help develop the social interaction skills of each student through play. Each pupil will also engage in any relevant sensory programmes to develop self-regulation using activities that each pupil is motivated by. These targets will be worked on using both group and individual sessions enabling opportunity to review and change sessions to ensure the pupils are being provided with opportunity to meet full potential.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us on

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| **Class teacher** | **OT** | **SALT** |
| Jen Dunn jennifer.dunn@percyhedley.org.uk  | Gemma Cooke g.cooke@percyhedley.org.uk  | Mollie Henaghanm.henaghan@percyhedley.org.uk |
| **Physio -** on referral |
| Roz Middleton - nuth.physio.ncs@nhs.net |

Best wishes

Jen and the Lindisfarne team