**Autumn Newsletter 2020-21**

**Chillingham Class**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a relaxing summer break during these strange times!

All of the children have settled into school as though they have never been away and are happy to be getting back into their routines.

Our class team is made up of Janice March (Class Teacher), Louise Allport (SALT) and Anna Sallows (OT). Our support staff this year are Kori, Kristina, Tracy, Amber, Debbie and Donna. The class team know the children really well from last year and I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know your lovely children. Please feel free to contact me any time on the contact details below and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Our swimming day this year is on a Monday. We continue to access the local community in a variety of ways to develop the children’s communication and functional skills, as well as their awareness of how to keep themselves safe when out and about. As a school we are monitoring the current Covid situation very closely and endeavour to ensure that children are safe when accessing the community, updating our risk assessments to reflect any changes.

On Monday afternoons, the class will be visiting cafes in the local community and on Tuesdays we visit local shops to buy the items we need for our therapy led Baking Therapy / Food Tech session. During these outings, children follow individualised programmes to develop skills such as road safety, using money, waiting, making choices and requesting.

On Thursday afternoons we have our Humanities session where we will be accessing local parks and woods, as well as indoor places of interest – such as museums, art galleries and places such as the Tim Lamb Centre. Community access may change in regard to any changes in Government advice regarding the current pandemic but we will always keep you informed.

Our topic in Hillcrest this term is ‘Dinosaurs’ which we are enjoying lots. So far this term we have searched for dinosaur bones, used preferred methods of communication to request items to make various dinosaur crafts and had some dinosaur maths treasure hunts. In Science we are learning about the Earth’s structure and this week we enjoyed making our own erupting volcano.

We will also be observing seasonal changes across the year and looking for signs of autumn.

Children are enjoying using the regulation area at break and lunch times, as well as for learning breaks when required.

Please keep checking your child’s Earwig account as we will be updating this regularly so you can see what your child has been up to.

We are going to have lots of fun and learning this year and I very much look forward to getting to know you all. As always, please feel free to contact myself, Louise or Anna should you have any queries or need to pass on any information. We are always happy to hear from you.

Best wishes, Janice and the Chillingham class team

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| **Class Teacher** | **OT** | **SALT** |
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