**PMLD Department**

**Summer Newsletter 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a delight to welcome our students back into school after the holidays, some of whom are returning after shielding at home. We say goodbye to our lovely Teddy this week, and to Julia Patterson who retires after a long shift here at Northern Counties School, and we’re sure you join us in wishing them both well.

As a result we have some changes within the school and department itself. Ros Field has been appointed as assistant head teacher; however she will be working into all the PMLD classes throughout the week. Rachel Jeffares joins the middle leadership team and will be working with Ros to oversee the department. We then welcome Amy Sibley into a new teaching role.

Our topic this term is Festivals and we hope to be able to spend some time outside enjoying some sunshine and having our own mini festival on the field in the summer! We will continue to focus on our communication, physical skills and sensory exploration, all of which remain integrated throughout all daily sessions.

In speech and language therapy sessions we will continue to develop our sensory exploration skills through sensory stories, call and response sessions and using the eye gaze technology. As a department team we are also planning to begin work on individual student communication passports. Pam’s class continue to be supported by Mollie Henaghan, Amy’s class by Victoria Box and Rachel’s class by Erin Kelly. Additionally, please direct any queries around dysphagia to Erin and Mollie.

Michele McCafferty continues to support the department in her role as middle leader for therapy, and she also recently been appointed a school governor. We would also like to introduce our new occupational therapist Tara Tardoff who will be supporting Rachel’s class. We will continue to focus on gross motor movement development through music and movement sessions and social games. The SaLTs and OTs will continue to work closely together to plan cause and effect programmes.

Roz Middleton continues to support us for physiotherapy. This term we are very excited to be trialling the innowalk in school – watch out for photos! Any feedback you have about this would help us explore fundraising for our own.

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact us using contacts below. We are looking forward to another term working with your fabulous young people!

Best wishes,

PMLD Department

PMLD department contacts:

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| Tara Tordoff | Occupational therapist | tara.tordoff@percyhedley.org.uk |
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