



## Woodland Department Newsletter

January 2018



The pupils have settled back into the school routine really quickly following the Christmas holidays. This week I have enjoyed visiting our classes and seeing some extremely beneficial activities taking place. In Meadow Class I saw a lovely session where pupils were focussing on their individual targets through a wide range of activities. In Forest Class I saw the pupils highly engaged in an exciting ComMUSICation session using resonance boards and in The Den Class I saw the pupils making choices about which fabrics to use in their art work. They were producing some very beautiful masterpieces! The pupils in Orchard Class appeared especially focussed during the Physical Development session this week, using the trampoline, swings etc.

Our department topic for the term is 'Clothes and Dressing Up'. Some sessions will be themed around this topic, other sessions will not be linked to the topic and will be based on the routines the pupils are already familiar with. We continue to focus on the pupils' individual targets and differentiate lessons to best meet the needs of the pupils.

**Meadow Class** will be involved in a sensory story based on the Julia Donaldson story 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. This story will include a range of exciting sensory experiences e.g. feeling the wind from a fan, trying on giant and tiny socks and touching slime! The pupils will work on further developing their individual communication skills through the story. Songs and rhymes about clothes will be included during ComMUSICation sessions using resonance boards. Kara will send home the words for these songs so you can sing them at home. Art activities have been planned around the clothes theme e.g. decorating clothing and bobble hat art.

**Orchard Class** are basing their story and ComMUSICation sessions around getting ready for a party. The pupils will have the opportunity to choose from tinsel wigs, glow bands, florescent socks that glow under UV light etc. Several pieces of music from the 'Trolls' film will be used within this session. Art activities will include decorating fabric using paint ice-cubes and pendulum painting. Hannah is hoping that the pupils' creations will be made into wall hangings.

**Forest Class** will be focussing on clothing and body parts to support the pupils to develop more of an understanding of their own bodies. The Forest Class sensory story has been written to include a focus on body parts, and ComMUSICation sessions and Physical Development sessions will also include work on this. The pupils will be exploring messy play and art resources with body parts, especially hands and feet. Jane has planned a range of messy activities, including the use of 'snow'. The pupils will contribute towards making books about themselves.

**The Den Class** will be using hats, gloves, scarves etc linked to their sensory story and will be working on developing their independence skills in terms of putting on and taking off these items of clothing. Art activities will include dying and making marks on T-shirts, bags and aprons. It will be lovely for the pupils to create things that they can wear or use. The Den Class will continue to give extra focus to developing life skills this term and will be supporting some pupils with transitions to adult services.



Amanda Brown (Woodland Department Leader)