

Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News 4th September 2026

Welcome to the 2026-27 academic year. I hope that you have had a good summer and made the most of the lovely weather. This will be a short introductory blog, given that many of you are catching up with things you didn't get done over the summer.



What's coming up?

Mexican themed lunch: Thursday 17th
September

Social Coffee & Introduction to FoPHS:
Wednesday 23rd September 9.30-11.00



[Donate to GNR Team Robinson 2026 here](#)

School Calendars

[Term dates 2026-27](#)

[Events calendar 2026-2027](#)

Important

For those new to school, I'd like to introduce myself as your family Liaison Officer. I have worked here for 15 years, but my Percy Hedley journey began in 2003 when my now 28-year-old son started school here. I am a former nurse, Chair of a National Autistic Society branch and member of a Parent Carer Forum. I try to use experience gained and that of being a parent of children with additional needs in my work. I also set up our PTA, now Friends of Percy Hedley School (FoPHS) in 2013. I am part of the Preparation for Adulthood team and am pleased to be joining the Leading Parent Participation team this year.

I am available to support parents/carers with non-educational matters. I offer support by phone, email, TEAMS and in person. I completed the DWP advocacy training for DLA and PIP, so if you need support with these please get in touch.

In my blogs you will find up to date information from school including calendar of events, term dates, information on activities, SEN related information from established charities, local authorities etc which may be useful.



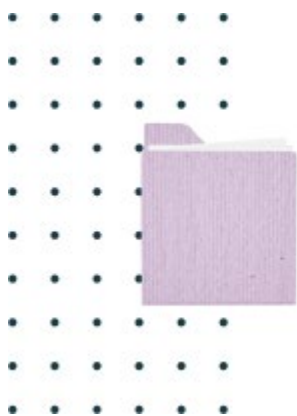


Online Safety Information:

The link to the Online safety information can be found on the school website under the heading "Parent and carers area", then "online safety" from the dropdown menu.

[View the online safety blogs here](#)

[And view all information about online safety at PHS here](#)



Free School Meals.

As of 1st September 2026, children of any family in receipt of Universal Credit are eligible for a free school meal. There are now 2 categories:

1. Targeted group: Those on Universal Credit and low income: These were already receiving free school meals and school receives additional funding for students up to Key Stage 4/Year 11.
2. Expanded group: Children of families on Universal Credit who may also be working part time or whose household income is above the threshold for targeted support. This category is not eligible for Pupil Premium.

Eligibility for Free School meals is checked by an external agency, and the link has been sent to all families. There are still parents who have not completed the form, which takes about 5 minutes. Further reminders will be sent.

To complete the form, please select “North Tyneside Council” as this is where we are located; then select Percy Hedley School. You will need your (parent) name, your date of birth, your National Insurance number, email address and phone number, your child’s name and date of birth.

[Find the link here](#)

iPAY: Those who pay for school meals will need to pay via the iPAY. If your child is eligible for free school meals or is exempt (those on blended diets) you will not need to set up a link. Please bear with us if you are receiving notifications

requesting payments and your child does not need to pay for a school meal. This will be resolved as soon as possible.

SHED form:

The Supporting Health in Education (SHED) form was revised and links sent to all families to complete. Those who have yet to do this have received a text/email message. Please could this be completed this week.

16-19 Bursary:

Students in Post 16 may be eligible for a student bursary which is used to reduce barriers to learning in school. All students eligible for a free school meal are eligible for the discretionary student bursary. If you have completed the online free school meal form I will not need further financial information.

Some students may be eligible for the Vulnerable Student bursary. These are students in local authority care or those who are claiming Universal Credit and PIP/DLA in their own name.

We will not know what funds are available until later in the year as it is related to the school census. It is likely that, due to the expansion of the eligibility for free school meals that the amount of funding per student may be less than last year. I am happy to arrange a session on TEAMS to explain this if required; I already offered and completed on in July.

If you would like to find out more about the 16-19 Student bursary, here is the link to the government website:



All parents and carers are members of FoPHS by default and we welcome your support. You can join meetings, volunteer at events as requested, provide suggestions and support our events.

Your committee is:

Chair: Hannah Fuller (Staff)

Vice Chair: Nicola Short (Parent)

Secretary: Catherine Trobe (Staff)

Treasurer: Ros Holden (Parent)

Family Liaison: Eileen Robinson (Staff)

Fundraising link: Fran Clark Jewitt (Staff)

In July we put together a story covering all we do to support school. Our remit is clear; we support things that enhance the learning environment and experience for all students.

[Find out how FoPHS supports school here](#)

Great North Run 2026.

Team Robinson signed up to complete this event and raise much needed funds for FoPHS on Sunday 13th September. My husband Richard, daughter Aisling and son in law Brandon are Team Robinson. Niall, my 28-year-old son and former PHS student and I will support the fundraising team in the charity village on the day in South Shields. If you are in the area, please come to the tent and see us.

We need to raise £750 and need your support to get there. Heere is the link and we genuinely appreciate every single donation which will support your children.

[Donate to Team Robinson here](#)





Facebook page

This is a closed group for family and friends of Percy Hedley School, where you can share news and updates about school life. It is not for external professionals who may be working with families. To join, you need to answer the question stating your link with school.

Please note: this group is for sharing news and updates about school life and is not intended to discuss any issues around individual students, and as such all comments are moderated. If you have a particular issue or concern, please contact school directly on 0191 216 1811.

[Join the Facebook Group here](#)



Quote of the Week

I like to end my blogs with a quote, so here goes:

“It’s time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings”.

Meister Eckhart

Contact details



Contact details

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