

Percy Hedley School's

Whole School Blog

News, STARS, Residential, Cultural Week, National Storytelling Week & lots more besides! - from John & the PHS Team

Friday 6th February 2026

Hello all,

Such a great & busy time for us right now! The residential guys have come back, there was a Cultural Week, National Reading Week, all sorts of trips & outings & sport. Phew! And we're over halfway through the year too! It certainly makes the term race by when there's such a lot going on – that's how I like it anyway!

I hope you're OK as well and coping with the weather and Groundhog Day on Monday! (Love that film by the way). It's a lovely long blog this week, so I hope there's something that interests you – if not I'm sure you'll enjoy all the STARS from classes, residential, and therapy. Have a lovely weekend, hope to see you soon, and thanks for your support.

All the best

John S

😊 from John & the PHS Team 😊

OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

Respect,
Teamwork
& Resilience

HOW THE CURRICULUM WORKS & WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US:

3 Super-Steering Groups deliver our Key Drivers through our curriculum.

The Key Drivers are Communication, Wellbeing and Independence

The Groups are Literacy, Physical Development & Personal Development

Literacy

Becky, our Literacy Specialist Lead, leads a team that improve all aspects of literacy, including writing, oracy, reading, phonics, books & the library! Here's Becky!

THE YEAR OF READING!



2026 - The National Year of Reading!

This week we celebrated National Storytelling Week, and it's been a very busy one! Created by the 'Society of Storytelling' over twenty years ago, National Storytelling Week is an annual event which celebrates the power of sharing stories.

'Stories teach us about the world; they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy; they help us to relax and escape, and they can help develop essential literacy skills' The National Literacy Trust

It probably won't come as a surprise that there is a lot of Storytelling going on within a typical week at Percy Hedley, but it was lovely to have the excuse to do even more! The theme of 'Soundtrack your Story' was felt too -There was all sorts going on across the week.....

Chris's class visited other classes across school to share stories, Terry had his music class composing songs to a spooky story, Kasia G read the story 'The Dot' and her classes made lots of dot-inspired artwork and Harriet's class were creating soundscapes and even their own Roald Dahl inspired 'Gobblefunks' (made up words!)

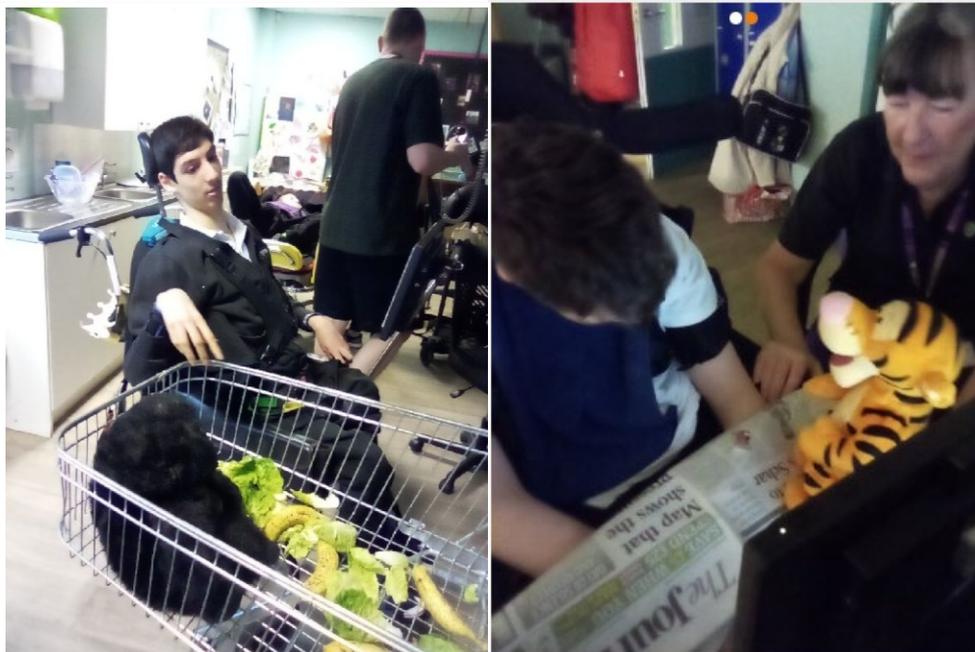
Here's some photos of other classes celebrating.....



3BE loved listening to their favourite stories and telling their friends about them during National Story Telling Week. Some of used symbols and VOCAs to retell our news from the week to the rest of the class.



5AH have been enjoying our Sensory Storytelling sessions based on the book 'You can't take an Elephant on a Bus'. We especially liked the switch activated jumping tiger and the naughty monkeys who throw the food out of real-life shopping trolley. John in particular was excellent at reminding us to 'turn the page' using his VOCA!



In 5RR, the Robins enjoyed listening to stories and then retold them. Mattie retold the story of Mrs. Wishy-Washy by sequencing pictures from the story.



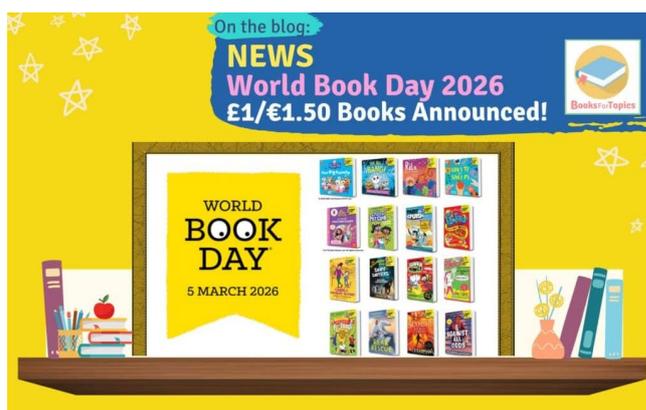
I'm hopeful that we can share even more of the wonderful things that happen in National Storytelling Week in next week's blog, thanks to all the fab staff and students for their efforts!

Happy Reading & Happy Storytelling!

A date for your diaries this Spring, as the Literacy Team get their planning hats on:



'Everyone has their own musical story - whether it's in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through British Sign Language and the rhythms we feel, the soundscapes of everyday life, or the soundtracks we hear in films and games. Music connects us to words. It helps us express who we are and how we see the world.'



World Book Day - 5th March

World Book Day has come around again, with the added momentum of the National Year of Reading! Parents and carers will receive a letter shortly about the celebrations this year

Happy Reading!





Healthy Living

Everything that is in the world of Physical Development, including physio, hydro, MOVE, PE, HI, VI, OT & other key areas for us, including Outdoor Learning & many other aspects. Steph oversees this & one of our priorities this year is Healthy Living.

Tracheostomy Awareness Training Session

At Percy Hedley School, healthy living is about more than physical wellbeing. For us it is about creating an environment where every child is fully supported to thrive. To provide the best for our students, this begins with a highly skilled, confident and knowledgeable staff team. Ongoing staff upskilling and education play a vital role in ensuring we meet the complex and individual needs of our learners. Through regular training, professional development and shared best practice, our staff are better equipped to support physical health and independence, ensuring that all our students are supported to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives

This week Mary and Bex delivered tracheostomy awareness training to all physiotherapists at PHS. The training aimed to enhance staff knowledge, clinical confidence, and student safety when managing individuals with tracheostomies. Content covered fundamental tracheostomy care, identification of potential risks and emergencies, and the physiotherapist's role in respiratory management and multidisciplinary working. The session supported consistent safe practice and promoted a shared understanding of best practice when caring for students with complex airway needs

Drawing on their advanced training in tracheostomy care and management, Mary and Bex delivered an informative and engaging session for physiotherapists at PHS. The training incorporated both theoretical and practical components, creating an engaging and interactive learning experience for attendees. While not all physiotherapists at PHS are directly involved in tracheostomy management and care in school, having team-wide awareness of tracheostomy care supports safe practice and maintains a high level of clinical expertise across the service



Trache Training! Great physios!



Personal Development & Wellbeing

One of the best things about the school and one of the most important for our pupils, PDW covers PSHE, Careers, Social Moral Spiritual & Cultural, Online Safety, Behaviour & similar areas. Jo pulls it all together.

Character Development

Our residential to the Calvert Trust in Keswick was about far more than activities – it was about growth, confidence, and discovering what feels possible

For many of our pupils, being away from home was the biggest challenge of all. Sleeping in a new place, following a different routine, and spending extended time with peers required real courage. Each small step – unpacking bags, choosing meals, settling at bedtime – was an important milestone in building independence and self-belief.

Throughout the three days we were there, pupils were encouraged to try new experiences in a safe, supportive environment. Activities such as hiking, archery and zip-lining offered opportunities to take risks, make choices, and trust both themselves and others. Moments of hesitation often turned into moments of pride, with pupils surprising themselves by what they could achieve

The residential also strengthened relationships. Spending time together outside of school helped pupils develop social skills, communication and resilience, while staff were able to support learning in a more relaxed and natural way

By the end of the week, pupils returned home tired but confident, with new skills, shared memories, and a growing belief in themselves – achievements that will continue to support their personal development long after the trip ended.



Time to Talk Day

As part of Time to Talk 2026, 3KJ has been discussing recent events in their lives.

One pupil shared they went on holiday. Everyone joined in the class discussion about where we have been on holiday and what we did on holiday. We also talked about how we felt on, before and after a holiday and identified the zones we were in.

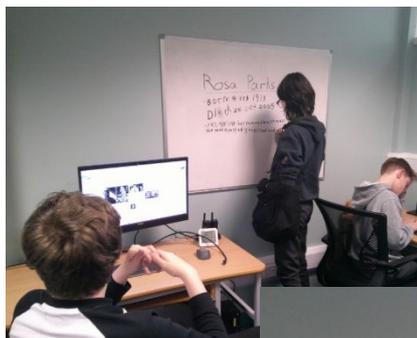
This week in 4AJ our Cohort 4 students came together to recognise Time to Talk day which took place on 5th February 2026. We discussed how important it is to be there for one another and best ways to provide support. We spoke about the charity Mind and who we can speak to if we need help; even if it's something which feels small to us, it is still helpful to share.

When discussing this with one of the students they explained what they would do if their friend isn't feeling okay. They said, "I would offer to help, then say I'm here to help then let them know if they just want some space."



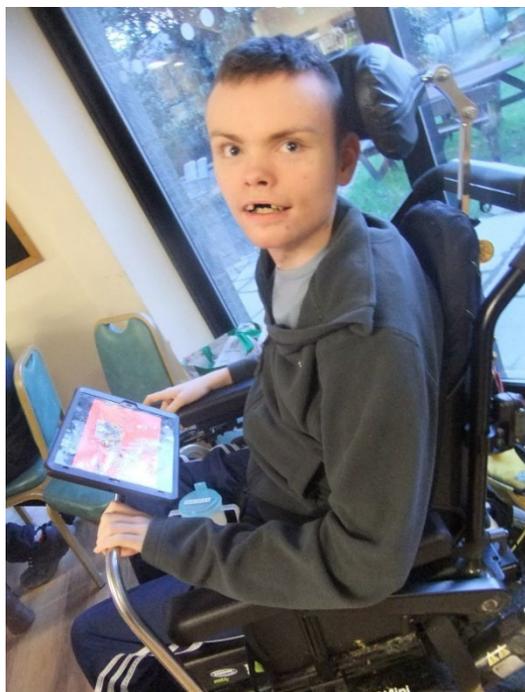
Rosa Parks

Following an assembly delivered by Ant, the students have been furthering their knowledge about Rosa Parks who inspired the Montgomery bus boycott 5th December 1955 to 20th December 1956.



MORE RESIDENTIAL STARS & STORIES!

Post -16's residential stay in The Lake District was packed full of stars



One of those stars was Logan who managed to combine the qualities of resilience, independence, communication and teamwork during our first evening

We suffered a short power cut when Logan's friend was putting clothes into the wardrobe. Spontaneously, Logan took his VOCA off its stand, turned it around and pointed it towards the wardrobe, providing light for his friend to continue putting his things away!

A true Resi STAR if ever there was!



Resilience Days! Belonging!

Andy, Nicola, Nat, Emma & the Wellbeing Team have arranged the next Resilience Day – so important and popular with us here. Taking place on Friday 13th, the topic is one of the best: Belonging. Let's hear what they've got planned for us in a couple of weeks.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: FRI 13TH FEBRUARY - SILENT DISCO



Hi everyone! We're getting ready for a day of connection and community on Friday 13th February, as we celebrate 'Children's Mental Health Week' and our next school 'Resilience Day!' The theme this time is 'Belonging', a value that we hold at the very heart of our school, and we'll be spending the day taking part in activities and considering how we all fit together.

The main event will be a silent disco. A perfect metaphor for belonging, as it allows us to share a fun and collective experience while respecting everyone's individual preferences and sensory needs. We can't wait to see everyone finding their groove on the dance floor! Check the blog again next week for more details on what we have planned for the day!



PE with Nathan!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Girls' Football League Competition – Newcastle United Foundation



Gracey the Footballer!

*This week our girls **took part once again in the football league competition at Newcastle United Foundation, playing three games across the morning.***

*Throughout the morning, the girls showed **great spirit, teamwork and determination.** They worked hard in every match, supported one another on and off the pitch, and showed a real desire to learn and improve with each game. Even when games were challenging, their positive attitude never dropped, and they continued to encourage each other and give their best.*

Several individual performances really stood out across the morning. **Faith** made some important tackles for the team, showing great awareness and commitment in defence. **Casey** showed exactly why she is the team captain — confidently playing from the back, supporting every member of the team, and scoring impressive goals from outside the box

Sadie played her best game to date, growing in confidence as the matches went on and making a real impact on the pitch. **Kacey** showed excellent resilience, holding her own throughout the games while continuing to represent the Percy Hedley School way by playing fair and being supportive to others at all times.

Gracey had lots of fun and got fully involved in all the skills and games, showing great enthusiasm and a positive attitude throughout the morning.

In goal, **Aurora** showed just how capable she is, making several important saves and proving that when she puts her mind to it, she can stop many chances.

Overall, it was a fantastic morning of football and a brilliant experience for everyone involved. The girls should be very proud of their effort, attitude and teamwork — well done to all 🙌🏆



Respect, Teamwork & Resilience!



Therapy Star of the Week!

Let's have a look at the therapy Star of the Week this week. Today, Bryan is going to tell us about some of the things that a certain someone has been doing. And this time it's...

Nat!



Nat! STAR!!!

Nat has performed amazingly in a range of therapeutic activities over the past week. He's recently been introduced to playing musical instruments using his eye gaze and has displayed outstanding persistence playing this with his friends and fellow bandmates! As well as this, as seen in the picture attached, he did extremely well walk and kicking a football while in his walker this week. Well done,

Nat!



Post 16's Cultural Exploration Week

Dear Parents and Guardians, writes Chris

We are excited to share the highlights from our recent school-based residential week, where our pupils had the incredible opportunity to delve into the rich cultures of Thailand, China, and Poland. This immersive experience not only broadened their horizons but also allowed them to present their newfound knowledge to their peers in a vibrant and engaging manner.



Throughout the week, students embarked on an adventure using public transport to explore various parts of the city. They delighted in tasting authentic Thai foods, visiting the bustling China Town, and discovering the unique offerings of Polish delicatessens. This initiative aligns perfectly with our mission to promote independence, as students navigated the public transport system with confidence and enthusiasm.

Of course, the week was not without its challenges. Preparing tasters for their presentations required teamwork and creativity, while learning to use our virtual reality headsets added an exciting twist to their displays. These challenges, however, were met with remarkable resilience. Our pupils demonstrated an impressive ability to adapt and overcome obstacles, showcasing their determination to succeed.



A special mention goes to our Post 16 students, who exhibited fantastic maturity by engaging with younger pupils about the countries they studied. Their enthusiasm was infectious, as they shared stories and insights, making the learning experience enjoyable for everyone involved. This interaction fostered a sense of community and encouraged younger students to explore different cultures, which was one of our primary goals for the week.



The culmination of their hard work was a lively presentation event, where students experimented with various flavours and discussed the significance of the cultures they had explored. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as pupils shared their experiences and knowledge, turning the event into a celebration of diversity and learning.



We are incredibly proud of all our students for their dedication and creativity throughout this week. Their willingness to embrace new experiences and share their learning with others truly embodies the spirit of our school community. Thank you for your continued support as we encourage our pupils to grow, learn, and thrive in an ever-changing world.

Warm regards

Chris



Chris Carr's Class!



It's been a very exciting week in our class as we celebrated National Storytelling Week! We loved sharing stories with new friends from different classes across the school. The children enjoyed visiting new classrooms and exploring new spaces as they shared their favourite stories and listened carefully while others read to them. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they talked about stories they love and discovered new ones along the way



In Maths, we have been busy adding two numbers together using concrete resources such as Numicon and counters. These really helped us to see how numbers work. We also practised our stem sentences: "*This part is... This part is... The whole is...*" The children did a fantastic job explaining their thinking and using mathematical language to talk about their learning.



In Art, we explored the work of the artist Frida Kahlo. We noticed how she liked to paint pictures of herself and often included lots of beautiful flowers in her hair. Using our computing skills, we took photographs of ourselves before getting creative. We painted bright, colourful flowers, carefully cut them out, and then stuck them onto our photographs to create our very own Frida Kahlo-inspired self-portraits. The results were amazing!



In STEM, we have been getting hands-on by making and decorating bird feeders. The children showed great creativity and teamwork while designing their feeders, and we talked about how they can help look after birds in our environment. We're looking forward to seeing which birds might visit them!



Early Years – The Ducklings!

It's so nice to hear about what the Ducklings have been doing each week, and to share in some of their experiences. The photos are always great too. This week Kate is going to give us the news, as well as some fabulous pictures!

We've had lots of lovely things to celebrate in Ducklings class this week. The children have been busy exploring, learning and trying new experiences.

In Bike Club, Rowan climbed on to a bike for the very first time! He made sure to bring his cereal snack along for the ride and showed great balance as he carefully manoeuvred around. Rowan also impressed us at lunchtime, where he showed fantastic listening skills and helped set the table ready for his friends.

George also shone during Bike Club this week. He demonstrated excellent listening skills and was able to stop and go confidently when shown a card. He carefully used the bike brakes to come to a gentle stop. Inspired by the stop and go signs in bike club, George independently wrote the word stop all by himself.

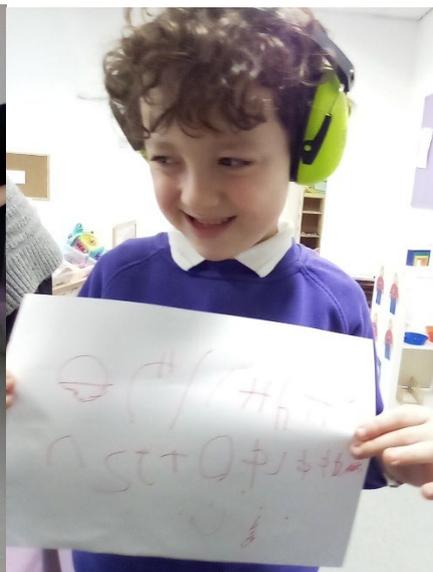
Hayden has really enjoyed joining our ELS sessions this week. He loves listening to adults sing 'If You're Happy and You Know It' and has been supported to join in with clapping and patting along. Hayden also enjoys our "What's in the Box?" activity, where he eagerly waits for his turn to pull out an object. These sessions have been full of smiles and laughter.

Aimee has also had a fantastic time in our ELS sessions. We've seen some beautiful letter formation, the use of new vocabulary, and confident attempts at our 's' sound, using the rhyme "serve around the snake." Inspired by the very rainy weather we've been having, Aimee also created some lovely bubble artwork!

This week Allie became involved in messy play for the very first time. She enjoyed putting her hands into shaving foam and using them to make marks across the tray.

There may even have been a little foam that accidentally ended up in a staff member's hair, whoops! Allie also enjoyed bubble painting, showing curiosity as she explored this new experience.

We're so proud of all the Ducklings this week and we can't wait to see what next week brings!





Kate's Ducklings have been busy this week!



World Week with Lena!



Charlie, Laiton and Logan from 5LWC visited Zaap Thai street food as part of their World week in Post 16

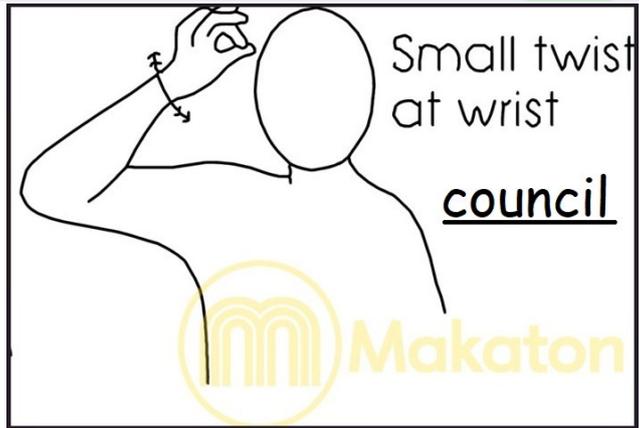
They loved the interior of the restaurant reporting it felt like they were actually in a street market, surrounded by lights and signs and even a tuktuk! The staff were lovely and they were each able to try some new foods!



School Councillors!



We are delighted to introduce some of our new school councillors who are representing the Learning Skills Through Engagement department. We have Councillor Holmes, Councillor Curry, Councillor Watson, Councillor Buckley and Councillor Abraham. They have already started their very important job by meeting with the catering manager to discuss suggested improvements to the menus. Before they attended the meeting they discussed the menu with their class and with the support of the staff, collected some great ideas to take to the meeting. They will meet with the rest of the school councillors every two weeks. I'm sure they will do an amazing job of representing their class to ensure that every pupil's voice is heard! Here is the Makaton sign for 'councillor' too

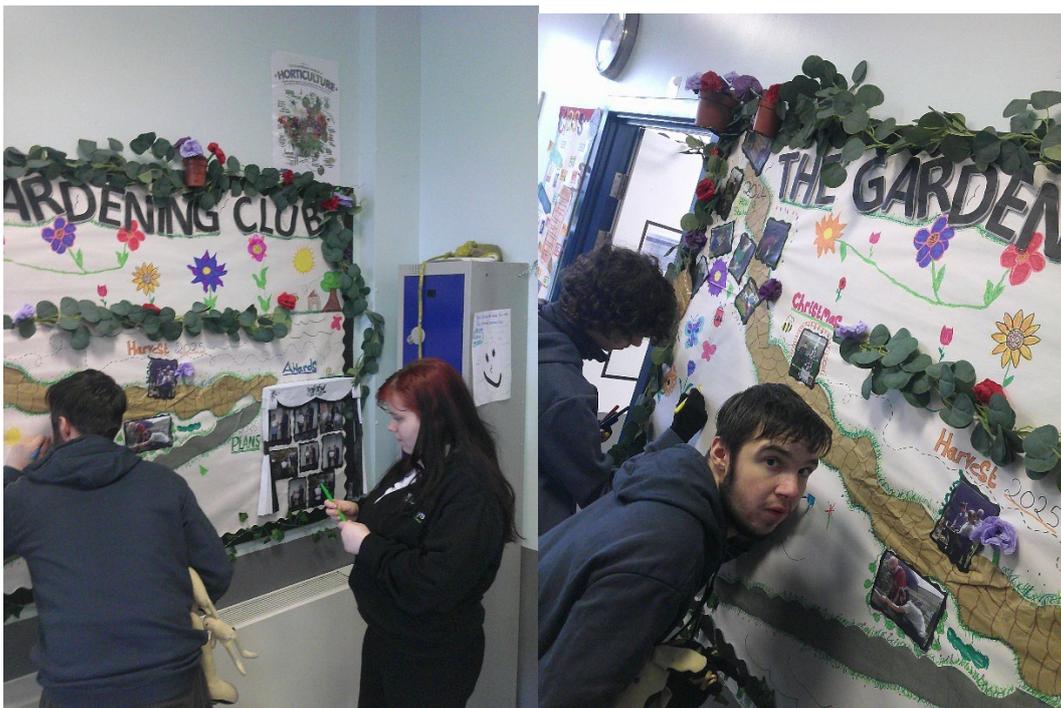


Ben's Garden Club!

Gardening Club



Love Garden Club! What has Ben got for us in these wintry time? Let's see...ooh, there seems to be an Award too!





The garden club might not be able to get outside right now but that doesn't stop us creating our new display board. All the guys have been working hard adding bright colourful pictures to draw others in. The display outlines how our journey started and how it has been progressing

Also we have our first winner of the gardening awards Shae Christie for all his hard work building a garden work bench



Nursing News! – A New Addition!

The school is all about teams working together for the good of the pupils, and we have a lot of different disciplines & types of people working here. It's really good that we have nurses, and I'm delighted that we are hearing from them every week now. Let's see what they've been up to this week.



It's Heart month!! ❤️ ❤️

This is heart month; Liv our fantastic student nurse, has found some top tips for heart health! Small, consistent lifestyle choices can make a big difference over time. Keep an eye out for our top tips over the whole of February!

Eat for a healthy heart

A balanced, nutritious diet is one of the most important steps you can take to protect your health. Aim to include plenty of fibre rich foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. It's also important to be mindful of your intake of salt, sugar, and saturated fats. Choose healthier fats like oily fish, nuts and seeds, and enjoy foods such as butter, cakes, and fatty cuts of meat in moderation.

Stay active

Regular physical activity plays a key role in keeping your heart strong. Exercise can lower cholesterol levels, improve circulation, and reduce your risk of heart attack. Any movement counts, from swimming and walking to dancing or gentle stretching. Starting small and gradually increasing the duration, frequency, or intensity of activity can have a significant positive impact on your heart health.

Some helpful links:

More information about heart health:

[*understanding-your-heart-health-his4a6-0624.pdf*](#)

How to manage and reduce stress:

Behaviour for Learning (BfL)

Aylisha and Corin have developed the BfL Team and work on supporting our pupils all the time, in all situations. They've been joined by Nicola and Nat, Sarah and Andrea this year to make a really important team for the school

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the BfL Team

aylisha.holland@percyhedley.org.uk

c.orr@percyhedley.org.uk

☎ Call: 0191 216 1811

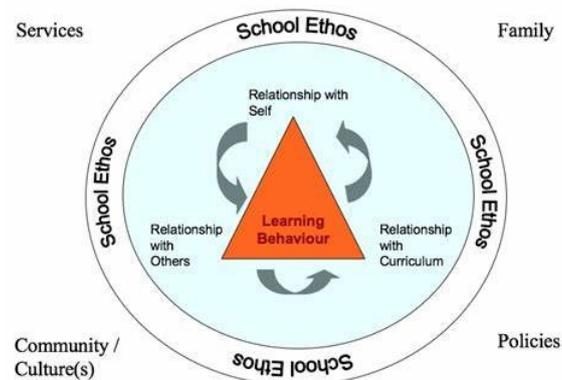


Figure 1: Behaviour for Learning conceptual framework



Preparation for Adulthood with Hannah

PfA is a priority on the School Development Plan this year

Let's hear below what Hannah & the PfA Team have been working on – PfA is one of our very biggest priorities! Hannah has dates for your diary too!



Parent Carer Survey: Understanding your child's needs and outcomes

As part of our development work on person-centred reviews, we are asking you to help us find out a little more about how best to support your children and young people in understanding their own needs and outcomes

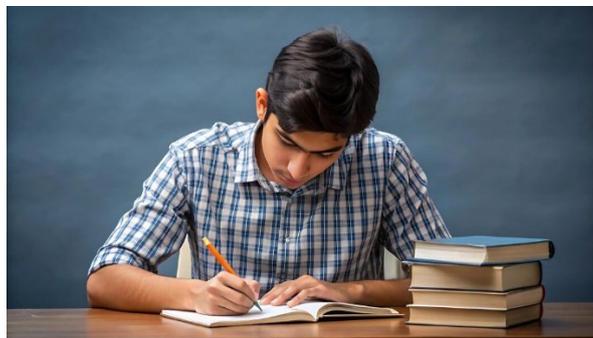
We would really appreciate it if you could respond to the survey we are sending out to all parents/carers. We're asking every family across the school, so while it may seem like these are concepts or ideas that your child is too young for, your feedback is still very much relevant: it helps us shape our offer from EYFS to P16

You can find the link to the survey [here](#). It will only take about ten minutes to complete, and any feedback is useful. As always, thank you for your continued support

[Parent Survey: Understanding Your Child's Needs and EHCP – Fill out form](#)



Exams!



Kat is our Exams Officer and works very hard getting everything right for everyone to do as well as they can with whatever they are doing. Here are a few words from Kat to get us thinking about all of this for the rest of the school year. Cheers Kat!

This term sees all the entries registered for the summer exams series (GCSEs, ELCs) with the deadline just before half term. Once this is completed, we can get organised in setting up the full exams timetable for the year, plus plan for more on demand qualifications in between. Candidates will learn, study and complete mock exams next term. Mock exams are compulsory, as set out by the JCQ, Joint Council for Qualifications. Happy learning!



School Lunches

Please find the menus here: [School Meals - Percy Hedley School](#)

Unless your child is in receipt of Free School Meals or Bursary, please ensure your iPay account is topped up before meals are taken. Thank you for your understanding & continued support in helping us to provide good quality, safe & nutritious meals for our children

If you have any questions or need support with your iPay account, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.



Safeguarding – this week, it's important to network!



Aylisha is our Safeguarding Officer, Rebecca is the DSL. Tracy and Corin round out a great DSL Team, with others like Carla, Lizzie & Vicky involved too in other aspects

of safeguarding. Today, Rebecca has some information on the Child Protection Authority

This week the safeguarding team were invited to join a new network, run by Clennell Education Solutions, which has been set up to allow safeguarding leads from specialist setting to have the chance to get together and discuss contextual issues. We have for some time been involved in similar networks with safeguarding leads from other local schools, but this has been the first time we have had a special school's network

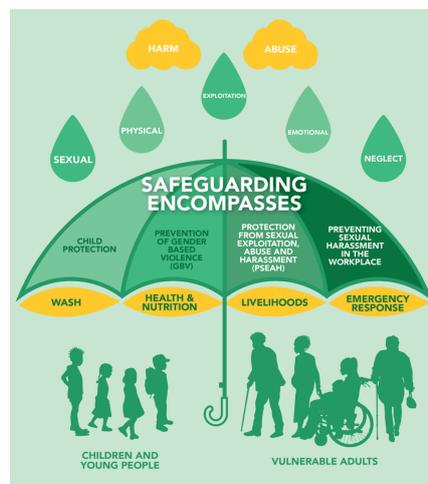
Going forward we will meet several times a year to look at professional enquiry, peer to peer support and to allow for signposting to resources to happen which may benefit the school

As this was the first time we met, we discussed some broad topics that are prevalent for special schools currently, such as the issues with attendance for our pupils and how to best support this, new guidance which is due to be received from the government, and ongoing issues with school transport and the training needs surrounding this

Our next meeting is in May, so I will update after this as to any information that has been shared with us, or any current topics of interest for parents

If you have any questions, please just get in touch

As ever if there is anything that the DSL Team can help with, or if you have any queries or questions at all, then please don't hesitate to contact r.fletcher@percyhedley.org.uk or aylisha.holland@percyhedley.org.uk for anything like at all that you think is, or even may be, related to safeguarding.



Safeguarding is a lot of different things!

Online Safety

Please do tell us what you feel would be helpful in the Online Safety blog, and the team will look into it. We know what a priority this is for many of you.

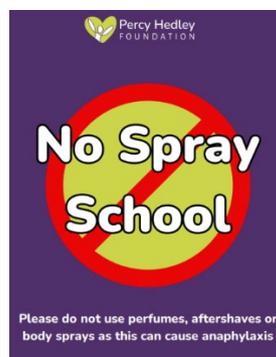
[View the online safety blogs here](#)

[View all information about Online Safety at PHS here](#)



No-Spray School

Just a reminder that we're a **no-spray school**. This means pupils & staff should not wear perfumes or aerosol body sprays, as these can cause serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, for some members of our community. Roll-on deodorants & water-based sprays are absolutely fine to use. Thank you for your support in keeping our school a safe place for everyone.





Attendance!



Attendance Matters



Thank you for your support with attendance, an area of national scrutiny. Here's Kelly

We are still seeing a lot of requests for family holidays coming through. Please note these will be declined. It is only in exceptional rare circumstances any such requests will be approved. Taking time out of school for holidays detracts from valuable learning time. Please ensure your child only takes holidays in authorised holiday time

If any appointments can be planned in advance as much as possible and made for outside of school hours. Understandably some cannot. An absence request form and proof are required to be submitted. Forms can be emailed, posted, or collected from the school office

Just a brief reminder about how to contact the school for reporting an absence. Parents & carers have a responsibility to notify the school if their child is going to be absent. Please note this is daily for each day the child is absent. This may be via

Note in the school diary if the absence is known in advance eg medical appointment

A telephone call to the school office before 9.30 on the first day of absence if the absence was unplanned, eg illness

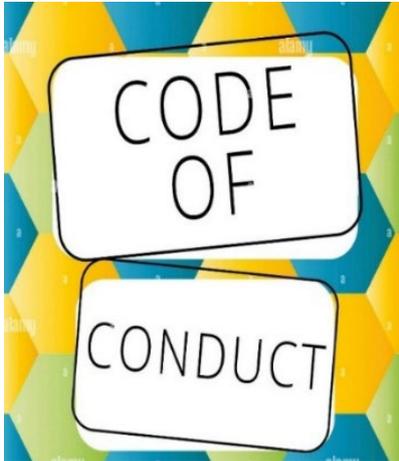
Email to class teacher or PHSattendance@percyhedley.org.uk before 9:30 on the day of the absence

As always, any queries feel free to reach out - kelly.richardson@percyhedley.org.uk

Thanks for your support and partnership in this area



Parent/Carer Code of Conduct



Our Parent/Carer Code of Conduct is on the website here: [Parent and Carers Area – Percy Hedley School](#). Most schools have these, so please do have a read – they aren't used very often. Thanks for your support with it – generally but also in most things that arise every day.



Friends of PHS – the FoPHS!

A huge thank you to all the FoPHS for their time, commitment & support with projects, ideas & all sorts. You're such an important part of the school. All parents, carers & staff are members of the FoPHS by default. The change to a Friends of was to enable us to involve extended family members and those in the community to support us. Your FoPHS committee is

Chair Ollie Teasdale (parent)

Vice Chair Hannah Fuller (staff) Secretary

Tracy Smithson (staff)

Treasurer Ros Holden (parent)

School link Eileen Robinson (staff) - school- role specific appointment

Our 2 parent governors are Chair and Vice Chair of FoPHS too. We are members of Parentkind, which provides guidance & structure to ensure we operate correctly. Benefits include insurance for events, links with their partners & training for parents,

carers & staff. We meet half termly. Time and place will be confirmed. Ways in which you can help

Join the 100 club <https://www.percyhedley.org.uk/percy-hedley-school/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/10/100-club-A4.pdf>

Attend meetings, share suggestions

Volunteer at events



Why don't you join! The Fabulous Friends are always looking for volunteers for events! If you can offer any support, please contact Eileen at e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk



Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) – with Tracy and the Team!



2024-2027

Please get in touch with Tracy and she will be happy to respond to any queries, suggestions about the LPPA and other issues for parents - from Tracy and the LPPA team - t.smithson@percyhedley.org.uk



Stars of the Week!

That reflect our School Values!

ENGAGEMENT



STAR Vivi!

Vivi!

Resilience!

Vivi is our star of the LSTE pathway for fantastic resilience across all aspects of her learning, especially in communication and physical development!



ELTBA

Emilia!

Resilience!

The ELTBA Star of the week is Emilia from 3HB!

Emilia has shown increased resilience and has impressed everyone so much by using strategies to support her emotions

Emilia always works hard in her lessons, with such enthusiasm and independence

Well done Emilia, you are a...STAR!!!





APPROPRIATE ACCREDITATION

Some great folks in KS4! Who has been exceptional this week? A few of them it seems!

Teamwork

Taylor L for being helpful in class!

Zakaria for teamwork by being supportive of his classmates in lessons!

Resilience

Joe B for working hard and staying engaged in his physiotherapy session!

Respect

Edward for being respectful when discussing views on what achievement means to others!



POST-16!

Love our Sixth Form!!! And let's see what everyone is thinking down there!

First of all, the staff wanted to mention all the students who didn't go on the Keswick Residential. They coped so well with a very different few days and enthusiastically joined in with all the activities. Well done everyone!!

We also have a few Resi based stars. All so Resilient

Brandon showed such bravery and determination on the climbing wall. He even rang the bell at the top. What a superSTAR!!

Kian coped so well and had a wonderful time at Keswick. Brilliant!!

Daniel G also coped really well and had an amazing time. Fantastic!!

OK, now back to school for the last two

Resilience and Respect

Jayden for a wonderful work experience. His feedback was fantastic. Well done!!

Ella for being most excellent during a visit to the library at the White Swan Centre.

Amazing!!

Resilience

Charlie for working so hard at the gym

Phew, that's a great list this week! Well done everyone in the sixth form!



Makaton Signs of the Week with Julie!

Every Sunday Julie prepares a message for the whole school on Makaton signs that are current and relevant to the time of year. I reproduce that here so that you can do the same thing at home if that suits you – or just for you to learn a few signs each week. Hope it works for you! Here's Julie

Makaton Signs of the Week 2nd February 2026

National Story Telling Week is 2nd-8th February 2026.

A good excuse to re-visit some key signs around enjoying books and stories.

[National Storytelling Week 2026 Activities, Events And Resources | National Literacy Trust](#)

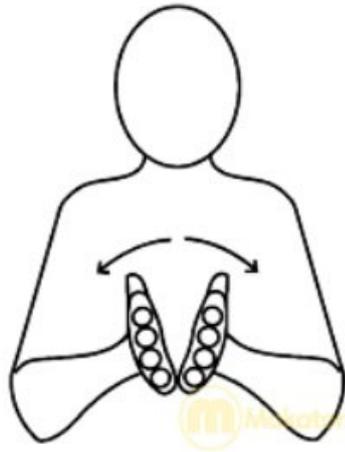
This year's story theme is Soundtrack your Story.

Book, story, read, look and listen.

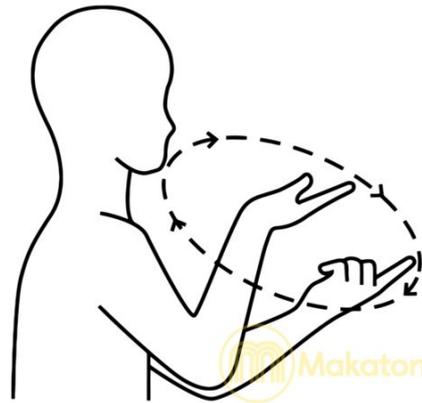
Here is my video:

<https://youtu.be/9sVv9pT-Xvl>

Here are the signs:

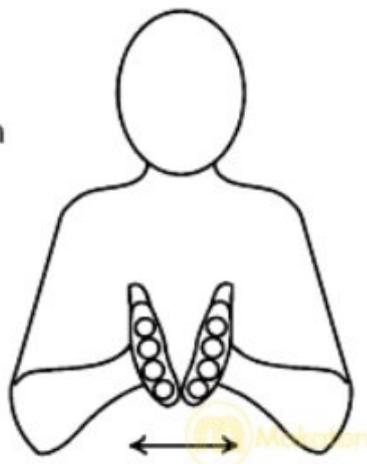


Book



Story

Move book slightly from side to side

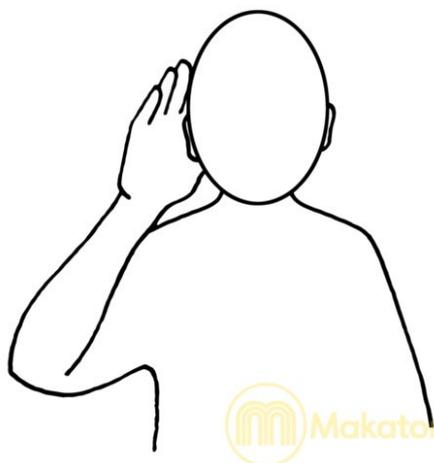


to read

two fingers
are slightly
apart



to look



to listen

Here are some links to see The Singing Hands telling signed stories on YouTube:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar <https://youtu.be/kQNxBRONqaA>

This is the Bear <https://youtu.be/kfiYIxJ2FhA>

We're Going on a Bear Hunt <https://youtu.be/0CuCCI0YO6Y>

Mr.Gumpy's Outing https://youtu.be/uQmOuL64D_E

The Five of Us <https://youtu.be/bGL2qxxvWQ5Y>



Have a lovely week full of stories!



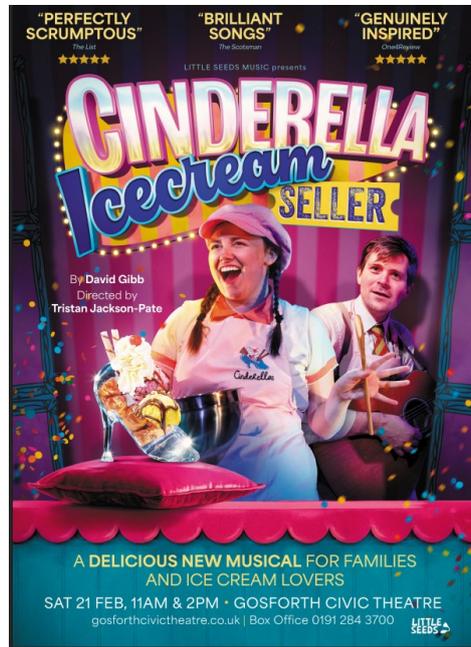
Keep signing in 2026!

Julie



And finally

We thought you might like to be aware of this if you weren't already – looks fun!



.....from John & the Team here at PHS

Our Key Drivers

Communication, Wellbeing, Independence

