

Percy Hedley School's

Whole School Blog

News, Stars, Meet the School Council, Brilliant Girls' Football, What's Available in Newcastle & WBD! - from John & the PHS Team

Friday 6th March

Hello all

A brilliant blog today, full of all sorts of interesting, funny & exciting stories. We're starting with the School Council, who are going to be on here a lot from now on!

All the best to all for a lovely weekend, take care and see you Monday

First, though let's join Amanda with....

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

Meet the School Council!



Meet the Student Council!

We meet every two weeks and discuss all sorts of important projects. We listen to what the students want and try our best to make this happen.

Recently, we have met with the Catering Team to talk about the school menu and ask if we could help make some changes. The Catering Team took our ideas and soon we will be having 'taster sessions' to see if the rest of the school like them so they might be on the menu soon. (Pictures to follow!)

Next week, at our next meeting we will be making final arrangements for the Mother's Day sale, which is Friday 13th March. All gifts will be £3. The money raised pays for some lovely treats for the whole school to enjoy

The School Council are great, and we have some really good folk on it!

OK, now on with the rest of the blog. Hope you enjoy!

John S



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 World Book Day, a favourite in the Literacy Team's calendar and many others too! It is part of my job to get enthused about books, but it's so lovely that we have so many staff and students who feel the same! There were all sorts of activities taking

place throughout school on Thursday, and spilling out into the rest of the week too, I have a feeling we might be sharing examples on the blog for weeks!





For starters, here's a lovely glimpse into the start of Spring in our outdoor learning area with Hannah, where all activities for students in the LSTE pathway were story related....

- Our sensory table was 3 Little Pigs and the students could listen to the story of "The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs" while exploring different textures and building materials that the pigs build their houses.*
 - The Crafting table had the students' making cookies for Grandmas house from Little Red Riding hood. Using air drying clay and petals to decorate*
 - The Book Nook was set up with all our Spring stories for the students to choose what they would like to read/listen to*



Our World Book Day theme this year was 'Go All In' with the National Year of Reading, and staff and students were invited to..... 'come to school on 5th March as YOU and how you want to read - pyjamas, coziest clothes, or expressing what you are 'into!



The choice was really important in this, and it was lovely to see interests, hobbies, favourite books, shows and films reflected what people chose to wear, have a look at just a few.....Zog & the Flying Doctors, a rainbow fairy, Gandalf, K pop demon hunters, Harry Potter, Ruby Gillman Teenage Kraken, football, Minecraft, the Gruffalo, Mr Tumble, Tigger and the Tree of Wisdom from the Wiggles - just as varied as it should be to reflect PHS!

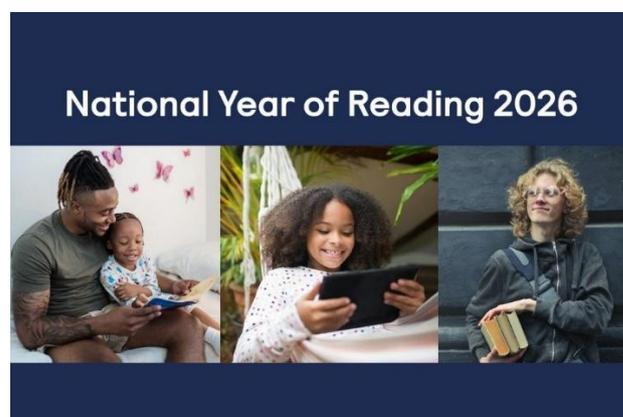
Whether they chose to express themselves through their outfit or not, students were also involved in sharing what they are 'into' and what they 'read into' by creating new classroom door posters. With the idea of sharing our own interests and passions, giving ideas that may inspire others to get into it, or researching different books or resources on favourite topics - we can't wait to share how we 'Go All In' in different classes!

A reminder that you have until Sunday 15th March to use the World Book Day Voucher for either your £1 book or to put towards the

cost of a different book. If you want to put it towards a book of your choice, you can even use it online - have a look here: [Books2Door - redeem WBD voucher online](#)

Finally, in case you want to share some World Book Day fun at home, have a look at some free to access resources for a range of ages and interests: World Book Day Free Audiobooks [here](#) or video books (read along story videos) [here](#)

Happy Reading & Happy World Book Day!





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. This week, Brian has been researching local resources

What's Available in the Toon?

Part 2 of our Healthiness Focus is looking into services available in the Northeast. This time, we will be looking in the Newcastle area.

Newcastle has a great range of opportunities available, to suit all ages, abilities and needs, and here are a few listed below.

Firstly, the Alan Shearer Centre in West Denton offers specialist, fully accessible facilities and support designed to help those with physical, learning and sensory disabilities, including autism and complex needs. It provides free membership and access to a wide range of therapeutic, sensory and recreational activities in a safe, welcoming environment.

What it offers:

- Hydrotherapy suite: A warm, therapeutic pool with sensory lighting and tracking support to help relaxation, movement and physical activity.*
- Sensory rooms & immersive spaces: Multiple sensory environments with lights, sounds, textures and interactive experiences to support engagement, wellbeing and sensory processing.*

- *Creative & social spaces: Music and art rooms where children can explore rhythm, sound and creativity, plus interactive games areas to connect with others.*
- *Outdoor play & woodland walk: Accessible outdoor play areas and gently designed nature trails for fun, movement and sensory stimulation.*
- *Social & relaxation areas: Browne's café offers a relaxed space for families to meet, unwind and spend quality time together.*

The centre also includes a Short Break Centre where children can stay overnight or for longer periods with trained staff support, giving families a chance to rest and children a holiday-style experience with activities and personalised care.

Elsewhere in Newcastle there is also:

- *The Nunsmoor Sensory Room – A bookable sensory space for families and small groups, suitable for children with additional sensory needs.*
- *Tim Lamb Centre: Soft Play / Quiet Stay & Play. Sessions where children with disabilities can use soft play, sensory rooms, trampolines and accessible outdoor areas within a calmer SEND friendly environment*
- *West End Library - Game Changers Social Clubs. Social, play and craft club sessions for young people which are inclusive and welcoming.*
- *East End Library - a variety of activities such as Lego Club and Story Time - A fun, accessible way to develop fine motor skills, and suitable for many children including those with SEND.*

- *High Heaton Library - Early Words Together & Toddler Groups – Play and communication-focused groups that help language development, movement and social interaction for young children through activities such as inclusive play.*

More information can be found on the following website: <https://childrenandfamiliesnewcastle.org.uk/events>

Finally, another worthy mention is the NAPI (Northeast Action for Children Parents and Inclusion) SEND Exclusive Activities. This work is in partnership with Sir Charles Parsons and Hadrian School with HAF funding from Newcastle City Council and The Department for Education within Newcastle for Children and Young people with SEND and or additional needs diagnosed or undiagnosed.

<https://www.napi.org.uk/send-exclusive-family-activities> - This website highlights upcoming events such as sports, arts and cooking days, accessible community outings, family sports days and much more.

A couple of other useful websites are listed below too!

<https://childrenandfamiliesnewcastle.org.uk/whats-city>

<https://www.informationnow.org.uk/article/leisure-centres-in-newcastle/>

We hope this helps and that you can enjoy some fun in your local area!



+ 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 – let's hear what's been happening this week

Character Development

In 2LT/SH we've been working on lots of choice making. We've been using our more and stop, like and don't like choices. In our sensory exploration sessions we've been exploring different stimuli, we've really liked some and really haven't liked others





Our PE focus this term is dance. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed dancing to some of their favourite songs whilst also working towards their physical and sensory targets. We've been reaching for the stars, shaking it off with pom poms, and have been children of the night tracking our glow sticks.



SMSC

3BE celebrated World Wildlife Day and prepared for World Book Day with an Attention Box session all about *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* which our very talented LSA Hayley planned and prepared. We all paid lots of attention to Hayley as she revealed and examined exciting toys from the bucket. Next, Hayley sprinkled orange poster paint on the silhouette of a tiger and then lifted the silhouette to reveal a tiger! It was fascinating to watch. Then Hayley gave everyone an invite to a tea party and poured everyone a (cold) cup of tea. In the final stage, we all made a jam sandwich. It was a very fun session!

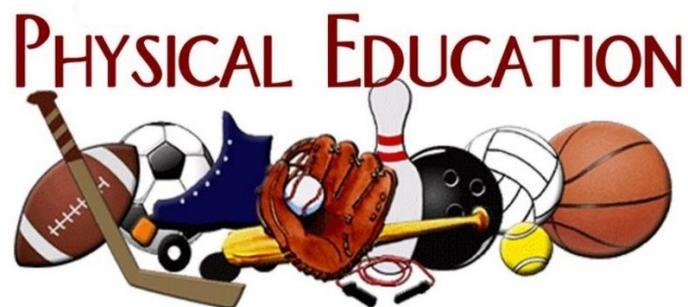








PE with Nathan!



Girls' Football Blog – Competition Success

This week our girls' football team took part in the Newcastle Foundation tournament — and what a turnaround it was!

After reflecting positively on last month's defeats, the girls arrived determined, focused and ready to prove what they are capable of. That mindset made all the difference. Showing excellent teamwork, communication and composure under pressure, they went on to win every single game.

With a necessary team position shuffle before the matches began, the girls showed great adaptability. Our captain, Casey B, stepped up and chose to lead the team from the goalkeeper position — and what a job she did! Her leadership, encouragement and confidence from the back set the tone for the entire team.

Just as impressive as the results were the girls' outstanding social skills. From the moment they arrived, they were open, friendly and welcoming to all the other teams. That positivity continued throughout the event, creating real camaraderie and contributing to a fantastic spirit across the whole competition.

The growth in confidence was clear to see. The girls supported one another, celebrated every success and showed genuine respect for teammates and opponents alike.

A brilliant response, a clean sweep of wins, and fantastic sportsmanship throughout — we couldn't be prouder. Well done girls!



Brilliant Girls Football!



Therapy Star of the Week!

Isaac!



Isaac has shown brilliant determination and resilience this week during his therapy session. His challenge was to type a short sentence using the laptop, but Isaac kept asking to try more and ended up typing over seven sentences! He remembered to have a space in between words, write a full stop at the end of all his sentences, and even used the spell check function to check his work. Isaac should be very proud of himself. Well done, Isaac! Therapy STAR!!!



Chris Carr's Class!

2CC have moved rooms! They're now in a much bigger space and they seem to have settled very quickly. They've been very good at adapting to that, and there's a lovely feel to their class. Let's have a treat and see what they've been up to this week.....ah, World Book Day, of course!

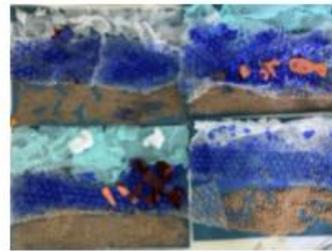


World Book Day!



To kick start our World Book Day celebrations, we enjoyed a wonderful live author read-a-long with Catherine Jacob. We carried this excitement into maths, using our knowledge of shapes to create pictures of lucky ladybirds.

We also continued our journey with *Barry the Fish with Fingers*. This week we used a range of materials to create seaside scenes where Barry and his friends could live. We loved exploring the different textures of tissue paper, sand, and bubble wrap—and we think our creations look fantastic! 🐟🐟



This week in our People Who Help Us Topic, our focus has been on the police. We had our fingerprints taken and created police badges. Our squad of detectives then went on a hunt around the school for some missing shapes. We had to use our observations skills and look at the colours and number of sides to make sure we found the right ones!

On World Book Day we became authors ourselves. We rolled dice to randomly choose who would be in our story and where it would be set. From there, we used our imaginations to create our own storylines. We then added our ideas to our Pick-a-Tale AI generator and watched our stories come to life. We loved reading each other's work so much that we saved them in our class library to enjoy again whenever we like.





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. Kate is going to give us the news, as well as some fabulous pictures!

This week we have continued our learning around the story of The Three Little Pigs. The children have really enjoyed listening to the story again and taking part in lots of activities inspired by it.



We have been busy building houses using bricks and practising our best “huffing and puffing” to try and blow them down, just like the wolf in the story. We also explored some very messy gloop, which we pretended was cement for building houses with Lego. Although it got very messy, we all got stuck in and absolutely loved it. We think the smell of the chocolate powder might have had something to do with the excitement! The children have also been using different materials such as sticks, straw and bricks to create their own versions of the three little pigs’ houses.



*In ELS this week, we have been practising playing to a beat while singing *The Wheels on the Bus*. The children used the drum in different ways throughout the song. They hit it quietly for the babies, loudly for the horn and fast for the wheels spinning round and round. They did a fantastic job listening carefully and matching their drumming to the music.*



*We have also been introduced to the letter *i*. The children explored new vocabulary including *invitation* and *iguana*. They have been practising writing the letter *i* using our formation rhyme "Down her body, spot her idea."*



Finally, we had a little beanbag incident that was too funny not to share! The tiny balls from inside ended up everywhere. The children had great fun rolling in them and throwing them around. Thankfully, Henry the Hoover came to the rescue and spent quite a long time helping us tidy them all up!



Ben's Garden Club!



The Gardening Club is great! And spring is here!



Nursing News! – A New Addition!

The school is full of different 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 & HCAs. This week they've got an important message about information that we need, and a lovely new photo!



This is actually them! 😊 (not really)

This week we are trialling the use of medical update forms being sent out to parents/carers.

The aim is to ensure that all medical information we hold is accurate and up to date so we can continue to support everyone safely.

*We have already had a great early response, with **43** parents completing the form so far- thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to reply. Your quick responses really help us keep our records current.*

If you haven't completed yours yet, please remember to check your inbox (and junk folder just in case) for the email and fill in the form when you have a moment. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.



Go Nurses!



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, Nat, Sarah & Andrea this year to make a really important team for the school. Let's hear what's happening in that team from Aylisha

The importance of positive relationships

Across our school, it is incredibly important that staff build positive, trusting relationships with every student

When children and young people feel understood, respected & valued, they are far more likely to engage positively in their learning and feel confident in the classroom

These relationships form the foundation of our Behaviour for Learning approach—helping students feel safe, supported, and ready to succeed. By taking time to listen, show empathy, and celebrate each student's individuality, our staff create a school environment where all students can thrive both socially and academically.

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

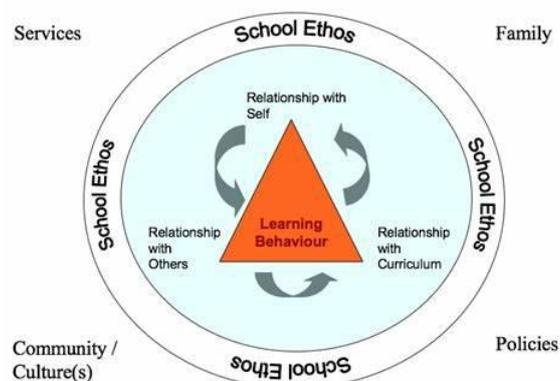


Figure 1: Behaviour for Learning conceptual framework



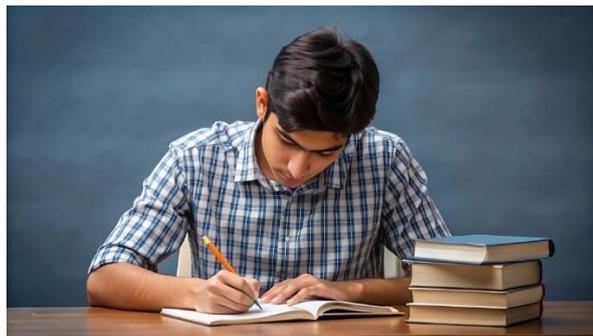
Preparation for Adulthood with Hannah

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!



Exams!



Mocks have been happening! Well done to everyone involved!



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, *the School Safety Map*



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

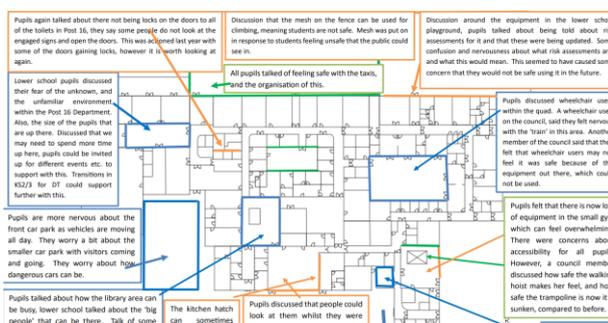
safeguarding. Today, Rebecca tells us about a really good piece of work, the school's Safety Map

The Safeguarding Team have been busy working with the student council to complete the safety map project. Every year we work with the pupils to gain pupil voice about how they feel about the school building, and to get feedback on areas of improvement that we could make, to ensure the school is a safe and welcoming place for all of our pupils.

We worked with 15 pupils to discuss all the areas of school that they use, and listen to any worries that they had. Pupils talked about wanting more space to sit in the outside space, away from the ball games that are played, they also wanted more sheltered spots to be able to sit with the weather being uncertain. They also talked about the zebra crossing at the front not being very wide and how they would like some beacons to ensure cars see the crossing. We also discussed the need for another crossing near the hydro pool.

The pupils' discussions were very insightful, and now that I have pulled together the information, I will be presenting it to the senior leadership team and governors, as well as chatting some things through with the maintenance team.

I will be meeting the student council again in a few weeks to explain the progress we have made with their ideas



An extract of the last Safety Map – the real one is bigger and can be read properly!

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



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 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 with an important reminder

Hello everyone, just a reminder that holidays during term time will not be authorised. Families are expected to arrange all holidays outside the school year to avoid unnecessary disruption to learning and missed teaching hours.

Please also ensure that GP, dental and other non-urgent appointments are booked outside the school day.

If your child does need to attend an appointment during the school day — or if you need to collect them early for any reason — an absence request form must be completed. These forms should be submitted in advance, and you will be asked to complete one on arrival if this has not already been done. Forms can be collected from the school office, sent home with the students in paper form or sent via email, whichever is most convenient for you to submit.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain strong attendance and ensure accurate records for all students

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

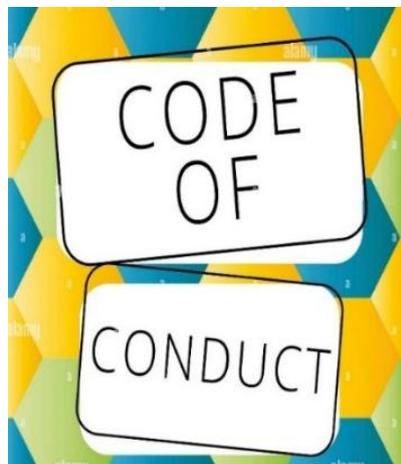
- *A note in the school diary if the absence is known in advance eg medical appointment*
- *A telephone call to the school office before 9.30 on the first day of absence if the absence was unplanned, eg illness*
 - *Email to class teacher*
- *or PHSattendance@percyhedley.org.uk before 9:30 on the day 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

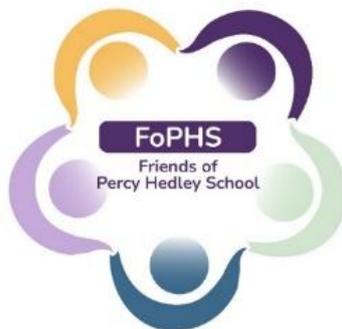
Tracy Smithson (staff)

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!



Hello parents/ carers & families

In January 2024, with your support and contributions, Percy Hedley school successfully achieved this award. The accreditation lasts for three years; therefore it is now time to gain your opinion about whether you have seen any improvements in the quality of communication with school/ staff during this time. Key points you made were:

- Regular communication updates on pupil progress
 - Yearly events calendar with regular updates
- Communication between home & school in a range of formats, phone, email, letter, text, weekly school blogs, home/school diaries, termly newsletters
 - A range of times & days when coffee event/ activities take place
 - Online opportunities to attend these events
 - Online training for families

In order to gain your feedback I will be sending out a brief survey in a range of formats, with the hope that one of the formats will make this request a quick process. This information will help the LPPA steering group set outcomes for the coming year. Once the data from the survey has been collated, I will share this on the school blog, which hopefully will be of interest to you.

We are currently updating our steering group as having representatives from across school ensures we capture opinions & evidence from as many parents as possible.

Thank you in advance

Tracy & the team

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@percyledley.org.uk



Stars of the Week!

That reflect our School Values!

ENGAGEMENT

Ameen!

Resilience!

Ameen is our Star of this week because he kept trying really hard to communicate. He showed excellent persistence by finding other ways to share his ideas when he had difficulties with his VOCA for a while, and let people know what he wanted. Excellent! STAR!!! Stuff there!

Ameen!





ELTBA

Archie!

Teamwork!



The ELTBA star of the week is Archie from 2CC for teamwork in stem sharing resources and taking turns. STAR!!!



APPROPRIATE ACCREDITATION

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

Resilience

Harry L for working hard in ALL lessons, even the ones he doesn't like! Harry STAR!!!

Patrick B and Joshua C for good problem solving in DT! STARS!!!

Ayaan S for his knowledge of how to be safe in the DT rooms! Ayaan STAR!!!



POST-16!

Love our Sixth Form!!! Let's see what Lisa has to say this week!

Resilience

All of 5JH are amazing stars. They have been working so hard at their mock exams. Well done!

Rosie Y has been doing really well developing her walking. Wonderful!!!

Brian has made really good progress at volleyball. He works so hard at everything he does. Brilliant!!!

Bradán has coped so well with his new timetable. Amazing!!!

Lucas and Dan have been working so hard in PE lifeskills. They are even moving up a level. Great work!!!

Bobbie and Kristian are doing work experience with Newcastle Eagles. They are growing in confidence and taking part in the activities. Excellent!!!

Respect

Faith is an asset to the class. She is helpful, polite and always works hard. Fantastic!!!



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

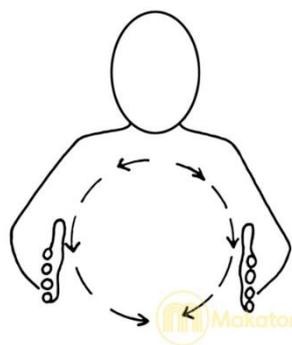
World Book Day 5th March



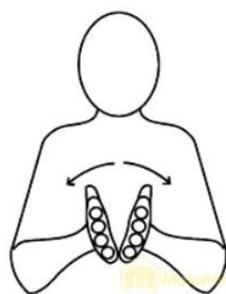
Some useful signs: world, book, day, read, story, like, favourite

Here is my video:

<https://youtu.be/hK3cz5hDqds?si=DnCdwrgMdLPnNMSI>



world

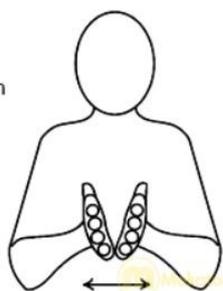


book



day

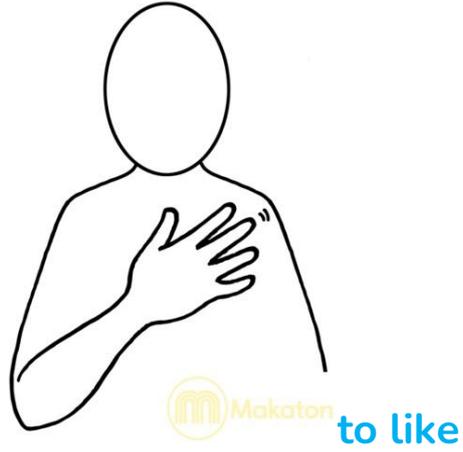
Move book
slightly from
side to side



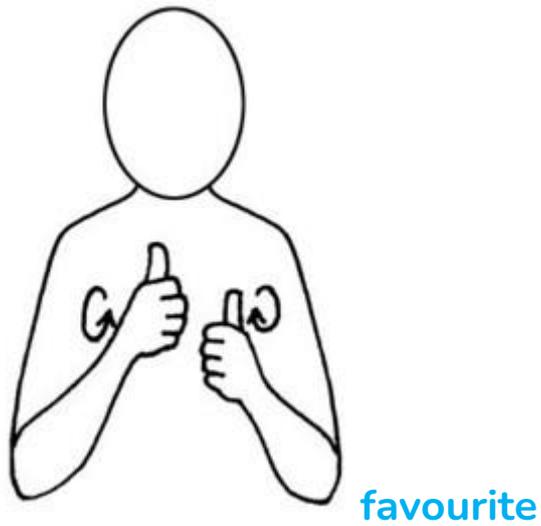
to read



story

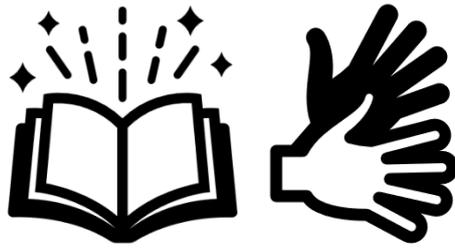


to like



favourite

Have a lovely week full of stories and information!



Keep signing!

Julie



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

Our Key Drivers

Communication, Wellbeing, Independence

