

Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News Friday 15th May

Hi,

That was one busy week. There were 3 parent coffee events and the FoPHS AGM.

As for the weather, the April showers seem to have moved on a month! The grass is greener though.



What's coming up?

Wednesday 20th May 9.30-11.00. Parent Forum PFA

Thursday 21st May 14-15.00. EYFS + ELTBA coffee afternoon. Classes KB, HR, HB, RC, CC, LL/RM, KJ & TW.

[Here is the link to the Parent Forum letter](#)

[For those joining online here is the TEAMS link:](#)

[Join the FoPHS 100 Club!](#)



School Calendars

[Term dates 2025-26](#)

[Term dates 2026-27](#)

[Events calendar 2025-26](#)



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](#)



Motability.

Changes to the Motability scheme, whereby eligible people with disabilities can use the mobility element of a disability related benefit towards the cost of a vehicle are causing a lot of concern. Some of these vehicles are wheelchair accessible and need to meet the needs of the person. From restricted mileage, drive smart apps to restrictions on vehicles it does look like not enough communication with those who need them was done before implementing these changes.

I saw this on the Motability site and wanted to share:

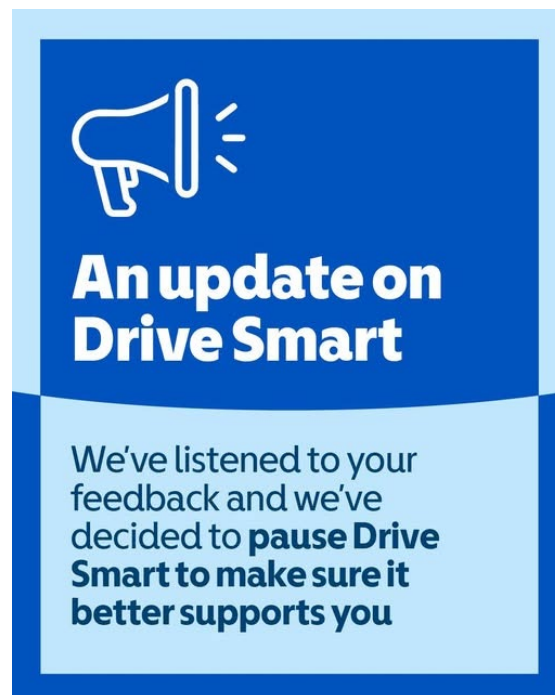
Motability Scheme

From Thursday 14 May, we're pausing Drive Smart for all customers on the Motability Scheme.

We introduced Drive Smart to support safer driving and help bring insurance costs down for everyone. But we need to make sure it feels fair, clear, and right for our customers.

We recognise Drive Smart has caused some concern. We will not re-introduce it until we're confident the experience better meets your needs.

👉 Read our article to find out more: <https://news.motability.co.uk/sche.../update-on-drive-smart/>



Whilst this is a start, there are other valid concerns around mileage restrictions. There are several action groups which you will find online. If this affects you, ensure that you share your views and support any petitions related to the new plans. It may also be worth contacting your MP.



Tim Lamb Centre

Those families who have a membership and been members for 6 months may be interested in the Pathways into Nature session. See poster below.

Here are some links:

[Website](#)

[Membership](#)

Again, members may be interested in their caravan holidays:

 Caravan Bookings are now open

All school holiday bookings will run Saturday–Saturday.

 Pricing can be found on our notice board in the centre.

Please note, £50 cash deposit is required at the time of booking.

Here's what we currently offer

✨ A 2-bedroom accessible caravan in Amble, Northumberland

✨ A 3-bedroom caravan at Amble Links, Northumberland

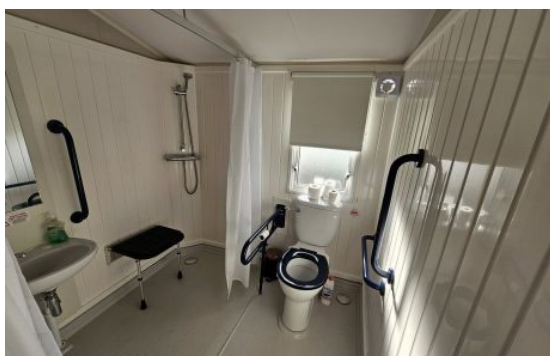
✨ A 3-bedroom caravan in Appleby

Unfortunately, due to increased fees, we no longer have our caravan at Haggerston Castle.

A valid membership of at least 6 months is required to make a reservation.

We're so excited to continue offering these lovely holiday stays and can't wait to see families making special memories!

[Find out more here](#)





SEND FUN SESSIONS

Join us for.....
soft play, sensory room, climbing and swings, role play area and outdoor space.

Sunday's
10am - 12nn
10th & 24th May
7th & 21st June
5th & 19th July

4-10 years
£5 per child

Cedars Academy,
Ivy Road, Gateshead,
NE9 6QD

To book: <https://smilethroughsport.com/whats-on/>

 @smilethroughsport  @smiletsport

Smile Through Sport

I'm still awaiting their half term activity list.
Here are links and a poster of current activity:

[Website](#)

[What's on](#)

These are not 1:1 staffed sessions so a parent/carer/PA must attend with the child/young person. You do not have to live in the Local Authority where activities are taking place; you just need to be able to get there.

Washington Wetland Trust

This was sent to us to share:

“Something exciting has hatched for half term at WWT Washington.

We've teamed up with Macmillan Children's Books to bring the magical world of Gozzle, the brand-new picture book by Julia Donaldson and Sara Ogilvie, off the page and into the wetlands.

In the story, Bear and Gozzle set off on a heartwarming adventure about home, family, and belonging. Inspired by their journey, we've created an interactive trail that encourages children to explore, imagine, and discover the wonders of wetlands in a hands-on, joyful way.

It's a perfect spring adventure for early years and primary-aged children, offering opportunities for storytelling, outdoor learning, and nature connection.

We'd love to welcome your pupils, parents and carers to join the fun this half term. If you can spread the word for us, we would really appreciate it!

Gozzle is running until 31st May and I have included an activities flyer and some images from our centre in this email.

[More info on Gozzle is on their website here](#)



JULIA DONALDSON · SARA OGILVIE

GOZZLE

May half-term calendar



Date	Activity	Where	Where
Sat 23 May	Build a bug house	Insect garden	1-2.30pm
Sun 24 May	Silent Disco	Veranda lawn	1-3pm
Mon 25 May	Silent Disco	Veranda lawn	1-3pm
Tues 26 May	Sonic pond dip	Reedbed shelter	11am-1pm
Weds 27 May	Pond dipping	Pondzone	10.30-11.30am & 1-2.30pm
Thurs 28 May	Vet check	Discovery Centre	1-2pm
Fri 29 May	Mini-beast hunting	Hollowood	1-2.30pm
Sat 30 May	Pond dipping	Pondzone	10.30-11.30am & 1-2.30pm

*no additional activity on Sun 31



MACMILLAN
Children's
Books

Share your experience with us @WWTWorldwide

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Gozzle © Julia Donaldson and Sara Ogilvie 2025 – Macmillan Children's Books

Ability to Play

Based in Northumberland but open to other areas.

Still space to book onto our half term programme! Get booked in before spaces go!


*** MAY HALF TERM PROGRAMME ***

Bookings for our May Half Term Programme are now OPEN!!!!

Spaces are limited and on a first come first served basis. So please book early to avoid missing out, Please Carefully look at the dates for each session as well!

To book you can either email bayley.milligan@northumberland.gov.uk or simply send a DM to this page stating who you would like to book on and which days.

You will receive a response that your place is secure.



A2P May Half Term


Stay All Day Blyth - Tuesday 26th May, 10am - 3pm, 8yrs+, £25pp
Blyth Sports Centre: Alongside Newcastle United Foundation and Northumberland Cricket Board this is a great opportunity to play loads of different games/sports all day.
* Packed Lunch Required

Junior Youth Club - Wednesday 27th May, 8+, 5pm - 7pm, £5pp
Running out of the Family Hub in Ashington we offer a weekly youth club for Juniors to come along meet up with friends, play some pool, play some football and video games and have a fun night!

Stay All Day Cramlington - Thursday 28th May, 10am - 3pm
8yrs+, £25pp
A fun and engaging day at Concordia Leisure Centre with Tenpin bowling, Clip n Climb and a host of fun sports & games!
* Packed Lunch Required

How to book?

DM us - [facebook.com/Ability2Play](https://www.facebook.com/Ability2Play)
Email - Bayley.Milligan@northumberland.gov.uk
Call or Text - 07843 835398





We held our AGM on Wednesday. I will share details of the confirmed committee next week.

The Student Council will manage their own funds going forward with FoPHS continuing to support as required. We have recently approved a request for a wheelchair accessible table and 2 benches at a cost of around £1600 for the playground.

The first 6 draws for the FoPHS 100 club were done and the winners are:

- 27 - Paul Cummings
- 36 - John Suggate
- 33 - Nicola Berriman
- 12 - Hazel Whitney
- 29 - Amanda Stobbs
- 5 - Anne Telfer

With thanks to those parents and staff who responded positively in the last week we have 47 numbers taken. This represents £282 for FoPHS which will be used towards funding memberships and the Annual Metro pass. Each winner will receive £23.50, and payment will be arranged by BACS.

We are happy for people to join for the remainder of the year and the last 6 draws which will be done in July. For £12 you will receive 2 numbers. If you elect to pay by BACS or QR code please let me know so that I can track in finance.



[Join Our 100 Club 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 here](#)



Quote of the Week

This week is Mental Health Awareness week so my quote for the week is related:

"You don't have to control your thoughts. You just have to stop letting them control you".

Dan Millman



Contact details

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