

Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News Friday 1st May 2026

Hi,

Gorgeous weather at the start of this week befitting the start of May. Let's hope it continues over the bank holiday weekend. Remember that school is closed for a bank holiday on **Monday 4th May**.



What's coming up?

Monday 11th May 14-15.00. Social Coffee afternoon

Tuesday 12th May 14-15.00: LSTE Open afternoon. Classes LT/SH, BE, CH, AH and HF.

Wednesday 13th May 9.30-11.00: FoPHS AGM

Wednesday 20th May 9.30-11.00: Preparation for Adulthood Parent Forum.

Links to letters:

[Parent Forum Letter to parents](#)

[FoPHS General Meeting Notes](#)

Join the FoPHS 100 Club!



School Calendars

[Term dates 2025-26](#)

[Term dates 2026-27](#)

[Events calendar](#)
[2025-26](#)



Online Safety

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](#)



Information

Most of you know that SEND reforms are imminent and, for many quite scary. Here is some information from the Department for Education.

Department for Education

We have hosted the first in a series of SEND engagement events, bringing together parents, carers, educators and professionals to talk about change.

It's so important that we hear a wide range of views on our proposals and that's why, as well as running a formal consultation, we'll be hosting more events online and in-person - ensuring everyone has confidence in the system we're building.

Whatever your connection to the SEND system, your views matter and we want to hear them.

[Find out more about the events here](#)

You will also find information in other groups:

<https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/category/send-education/>

<https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/information-advice-services/education-learning/the-schools-white-paper-education-reforms/>

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/about-cdc/media-centre/news-opinion/schools-white-paper-not-end-journey-critically-important>

Newcastle families

This may be of interest. Children & Families Newcastle has 4 hubs. If you're interested in this but can't get there have a look at the Local Offer:

🌟 Neurodiversity welcome events 🌟 will be popping up across the city in the coming months. Free drop-in sessions to find out more about assessments, support and activities. 🌈☀️

📅 15 May 2026 , 9:30 -11:00am Galafield Centre

📅 18 June 2026, 5:00- 7:00pm, St Martin's Centre

📅 10 July 2026, 10:00 -12:00, Cowgate Centre

📅 21 August 2026, 10:00 -12:00 , The Haven

No need to book, just come along 😊

Here is the link to find your nearest one:



Neurodiversity Welcome Events

Drop in to find out about;

- autism & ADHD assessments,
- support for parents and carers,
- mental health support,
- activities and groups,
- and more

DROP IN ANYTIME

Friday 15th May,
9.30am - 11.30am,
Galafield Family Hub,
Newbiggin Hall, NE5 1LZ



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Carers: Mobilise

I came across this group as I was listening to the radio on my commute this week and wondered if it would be helpful to some. It is a digital platform which may work for some; there is an app to download. There is a carer related benefit checker, online support groups and some 1:1 support which is what I heard on the radio. Here's what they say:

“Join the Mobilise Hub - your free, all-in-one support app for people caring for a family member or friend. Connect with others who understand, access expert advice, and join supportive sessions.”

Here is the link to their website. Any feedback from people who have used it would be great.

[View their website here](#)



With the May bank holiday this weekend and only 3 weeks until half term, yes really, I thought I would look at some activities for both times. Some are not on websites yet, so that gives you a reason to read next week's blog!

Newcastle Food Festival

👁️NEWCASTLE... THERE'S A LOT GOING ON

If you thought it was just about the food... think again 😊

Across the weekend, we've packed Exhibition Park with entertainment, activities and a bit of everything for all ages!

Here's what's waiting for you 📌

🎵Live music all weekend

Including: 🎤Oasis Tribute (Saturday), Pulp Tribute (Sunday) and Beatles Tribute (Monday)

👨🍳Cookery Theatre hosted by Anthony O'Shaughnessy

🔥Live demos, tips and proper foodie inspiration

🍷Around the festival...

🎺Roaming samba band

🤡Roaming comedy & entertainment

🎭Performing Arts Stage (hosted by Matthew J)

🎪Bubble performers & circus skills workshops

🐾 Get involved...

🐾 Family Dog Show

🌶️ Chilli Challenge

🏆 Foodie Olympics

✂️ Something a bit different...

🔥 Viking Heritage Kitchen Authentic Viking cooking, live demos & hands-on moments

🎯 Target paintball

🪓 Axe throwing

👩‍🎨 LizzieLand face painting & Nysha henna

🐾 Animals About Town petting farm

👩‍🍳 Kids cooking classes

Basically... you'll arrive for the food and end up staying for everything else 🤪

📍 Exhibition Park, Newcastle

📅 2nd – 4th May

🎫 Tickets: <https://newcastlefoodanddrinkfestival.com/tickets-info/>

(Plan for a few hours... stay all day 😊)

For those who need a “changing place” I’ve looked this up and the nearest one that is advertised as being open Saturday/Sunday is Northumbria University which is .11 miles from Exhibition Park.

[Find changing places here](#)

**THE NEWCASTLE
FOOD FESTIVAL**
— EXHIBITION PARK —

OASIS TRIBUTE (SAT), PULP TRIBUTE (SUN), BEATLES TRIBUTE (MON)
 FRESH COOKERY THEATRE WITH ANTHONY O'SHAUGHNESSY
 ROAMING SAMBA BAND
 FUN DOG SHOW, CHILLI CHALLENGE & FOODIE OLYMPICS
 ROAMING COMEDY & ENTERTAINMENT
 TARGET PAINTBALL
 VIKING HERITAGE KITCHEN - EXPLORE TRADITIONAL, AUTHENTIC
 VIKING COOKING TECHNIQUES
 BUBBLE PERFORMERS
 CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOPS
 PERFORMING ARTS STAGE HOSTED BY MATTHEW J
 ANIMALS ABOUT TOWN PETTING FARM
 AXE THROWING
 LIZZIELAND FACEPAINT & NYSHA HENNA
 KIDS COOKING CLASSES

ON SITE ACTIVITIES



**THE NEWCASTLE
FOOD FESTIVAL**
— EXHIBITION PARK —

<p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY</p> <p>WILL FORRESTER SMOOTH SAX ROCK CHOIR EATING CHALLENGE SCOBLE & FRIENDS SOPHIE GORDON OASIS SUPERNOVA (12 PIECE OASIS TRIBUTE) IBIZA SAX CLASSICS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY</p> <p>WILL FORRESTER SMOOTH SAX CHILLI ROAD BAND HANNAH GOODALL CITY STOMPERS DANNY CHARLES PULP'D (PULP TRIBUTE)</p>
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MONDAY

WILL ON SAX
 HOWLIN MAT
 SIENNA CRAVEN
 CB+
 THE FAB 4 (BEATLES TRIBUTE)
 IBIZA SAX CLASSICS

**LIVE
MUSIC**



Whitehouse Farm

🌞 Join us this May Bank Holiday Weekend at Whitehouse Farm 🌞

May Bank Holiday at Whitehouse Farm Centre:

🌸 What's on?

- * Magic Shows ✨
- * Character Meet and greets 🌸
- * Bottle feed and stroke lambs 🍼
- * Small animal handling 🐰
- * Critter Encounters 🐹
- * Groom a goat 🐐
- * Meerkat talk and feeds 🐪
- * Tractor rides 🚜

* Meet the Coatimundi's 🍷

Plus – Adventure playground, softplay, go-carts, toboggan slide, bouncy pillows, pedal tractors and trampolines

🎭 Character dates:

* May 2nd 2026 – Meet Mickey and Minnie inspired characters ❤️

* May 3rd 2026 – Meet Jessie, Buzz and Woody inspired characters 🍷👨

* May 4th 2026 – Meet Taylor Swift and Spiderman inspired characters 🎤🕷

Pre-book your tickets today! 📅

<https://whitehousefarmcentre.digitickets.co.uk/tickets>

There is a “changing place” at Whitehouse farm; 3 sensory rooms and sensory packs which can be hired.

[More accessibility information here:](#)



Alan Shearer Centre

There are a few activities here over the next few weeks, including half term. I have included a parent coffee morning which is an opportunity to visit and have a look around. There is a “changing place” onsite”.

[Facebook page link:](#)

[Website link:](#)

[Application form link:](#)

See posters below for further details. Remember that you need to book to attend, apart from using the outside space and the café.



Alan Shearer Centre
Activity Centre
Part of St Columba's Campus

Spring Arts & Crafts

2nd - 3rd May
1.00pm - 3.00pm

Join us at the Centre and create your dragonfly masterpiece!

It is absolutely essential that you ring to book a timeslot, ring early so you are not disappointed
0191 267 8118

The poster features a vibrant illustration of a pond with two dragonflies, one purple and one orange, and a small pond with lily pads. The background is a light blue sky with green hills.



Alan Shearer Centre
Activity Centre
Part of St Columba's Campus

Playdough Mats!

Minibeast Playdough Mat
Create some spots to put on the ladybird

Playdough Mat
Create some underwater creatures for the sea

Saturday 9th May
11.00 - 3.00pm

Choose a Playdough challenge mat or create your own design!

It is absolutely essential that you ring to make a booking as places are limited, ring early so you are not disappointed
0191 267 8118

The poster features two playdough mats: one for a ladybird and one for underwater creatures. It also shows various playdough tools like a rolling pin and cutters, and a rainbow.



Alan Shearer Centre
Activity Centre
Part of St Colman's Care

Tea & Talk Morning



Free Tea & Coffee!

Monday 11th May
10.00am - 12.00pm

Support Mental Health Awareness Week and join us at the Centre for a friendly cuppa and a chat!

Even small actions make a difference!

It is absolutely essential that you ring to make a booking
0191 267 8118



Alan Shearer Centre
Activity Centre
Part of St Colman's Care

Bug Explorer Hunt



16th - 17th May
11.00am - 3.00pm

Grab one of our bug hunting kits and become a bug explorer!

It is absolutely essential that you ring to make a booking as places are limited, ring early so you are not disappointed!
0191 267 8118



Alan Shearer Centre
Activity Centre
Part of St Colman's Care

Little Sparks CURIOSITY LAB



Wednesday 27th May
1.00pm - 2.00pm

Join us for a fun, hands-on science session, suitable for all ages!

It is absolutely essential that you call to book, ring early so you are not disappointed
0191 267 8118



AGM reminder:

Our AGM takes place on Wednesday 20th May. You can join in person or online via TEAMS. We will start with refreshments and introductions before the business element at 9.45. If you would like more information or just a chat, please feel free to contact me. If you would prefer to speak with a parent committee member just let me know.

The FoPHS relies on the support of the school community. You can support by attending meetings, considering a committee position, joining the 100 club, volunteering your time and sharing ideas.

[You can find more information on the school website here:](#)

We are Parentkind members. This is a national organisation that helps PTA's raise funds. As an example, we raised over £400 last year with the Asda cashpot. They also provide help with running the PTA properly, provide insurance for events, templates for the constitution etc.

[You can find out more about Parentkind here:](#)



100 Club.

As the AGM was postponed, so too were the first 6 draws. So, it's not too late to join.

Here is a copy of the form. You can pay by cash, cheque, BACS or via the QR code. If you do the latter, you can reset the "tip" to just giving to zero at the checkout. They already charge charities for using their site.

[Here is the link](#)

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

Ending the week with a little quote; apt for those thinking about exams which started this week.

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start."

Nido Qubein



Contact details

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