

# Percy Hedley School's

*Whole School Blog*

## News, Stars, Alessia the Therapy Star, Gardening Club, Father's Day Makaton and Prom in just 2 weeks! - from John & the PHS Team

Hello again everyone

How are things with you on this fine June day? Good I hope!

Well it's that part of the term when things start to get very busy right up until we break up, so please do scroll down at some point and look at the 'Dates for your Diary' section where there are some lovely things to look forward to, including Sports Day, MOVE, Prom, This is Me, Transition Days & a few other things. Do look out for specific class notices too

There's a Parent/Carer Forum meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and there's an article by Hannah about it further down too. It's also on Eileen's blog, so have a look at that & the rest of the website too if you're hungry for more PHS!

We've also been enjoying the start of the World Cup, both in chatting about it, looking at flags & countries – and eating World Cup-themed cakes. Come on England!!! And Scotland!!! And anywhere else that's nice or you like or are from!!!

All the best & thanks for your support. Tracy will be in touch soon about our Parent Partnership Project & how we're going to go forward with that. Take care! And Happy Father's Day if that's for you too!

### 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



## **School Council!**

**Let's hear from Amanda about what's been happening with the School Council! Excellent stuff!**

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

### ***Student Council News***

*The outdoor seating area was approved and the Student Council worked together to decide on the colours. These have been delivered and maintenance are working with the Student Council to arrange the best position for them in the school yard. That's a result for the PHS School Council!*

*Our Father's Day sale was last week  
We are now working hard to get some new outdoor play equipment. We are busy making a wish list*



***The excellent School Council at work!***



## 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 Chris again this week with his own brilliant style and news of upcoming events*

## **THE YEAR OF READING!**



## Exciting Literacy Events Coming Up!

We're looking forward to a fantastic few weeks of literacy celebrations across school! With two exciting national events on the horizon, our pupils will have lots of opportunities to develop their creativity, share their love of stories and celebrate the joy of reading and writing together.



### National Writing Day - Thursday 25th June

We'll be celebrating National Writing Day with this year's exciting theme, "Comics Rule!". Children will explore the world of comics through creative writing, drawing and digital storytelling, designing their own comic strips, creating superheroes and bringing stories to life. It's a brilliant opportunity for every child to express themselves, unleash their imagination and discover the fun of writing.

### Summer Booknic - Friday 3rd July

As part of our 'Go All In' celebrations for the National Year of Reading, we'll be enjoying a whole-school Summer Booknic. Children will grab a favourite book, and spend time reading and sharing stories together, and enjoy some picnic treats. It's the perfect way to celebrate reading for pleasure and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with friends and great books!



We can't wait for these exciting literacy events and hope the sunshine joins us for plenty of outdoor reading and creativity! We look forward to sharing all the fantastic work, memorable moments and smiling faces from our celebrations keep an eye on our blog to see what we've been up to!

## *Happy Reading!*



## *Healthy Living*



*Everything that is in the world of Healthy Living:  
physical development, including physio, hydro,  
MOVE, PE, HI, VI, OT & other key areas for us,  
including Outdoor Learning & many other aspects  
Steph oversees this & it's one of our priorities this  
year*



- **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 Issues, Online Safety, Behaviour, Wellbeing(!) & similar areas*

*Jo pulls it all together*



**PE**

PE is great here and very important for a lot of the students – in fact all sorts of movement. It's always good to hear from Nathan about what's been going on. What has he got for us this week?

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



*Lower School PE Blog – Orienteering Adventures*

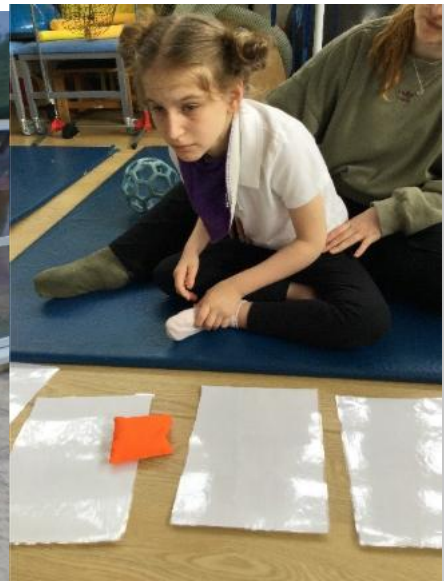
*Our Lower School pupils have been busy developing their orienteering skills through a variety of fun and engaging activities around the school*

*This half term, pupils have taken part in three different types of orienteering, each designed to build confidence, teamwork and problem-solving while keeping active*



### Cone Map Challenge

*Pupils used a map to navigate around a designated orienteering grid marked out with numbered cones. Using their maps, they located each checkpoint before recording the correct answers on their worksheets. This activity helped develop their map-reading, observation and navigation skills while encouraging communication, teamwork and independent thinking*



### Lower School Garden & School Yard Orienteering

*Pupils explored both the Lower School Garden and the wider school yard using an orienteering map to locate numbered markers. At each checkpoint, they completed activities from the Fitness column, adding an extra physical challenge with exercises such as star jumps, squats, jogging and balance activities. This combined navigation with physical exercise, helping pupils improve their fitness, problem-solving and decision-making skills while enjoying being active outdoors*



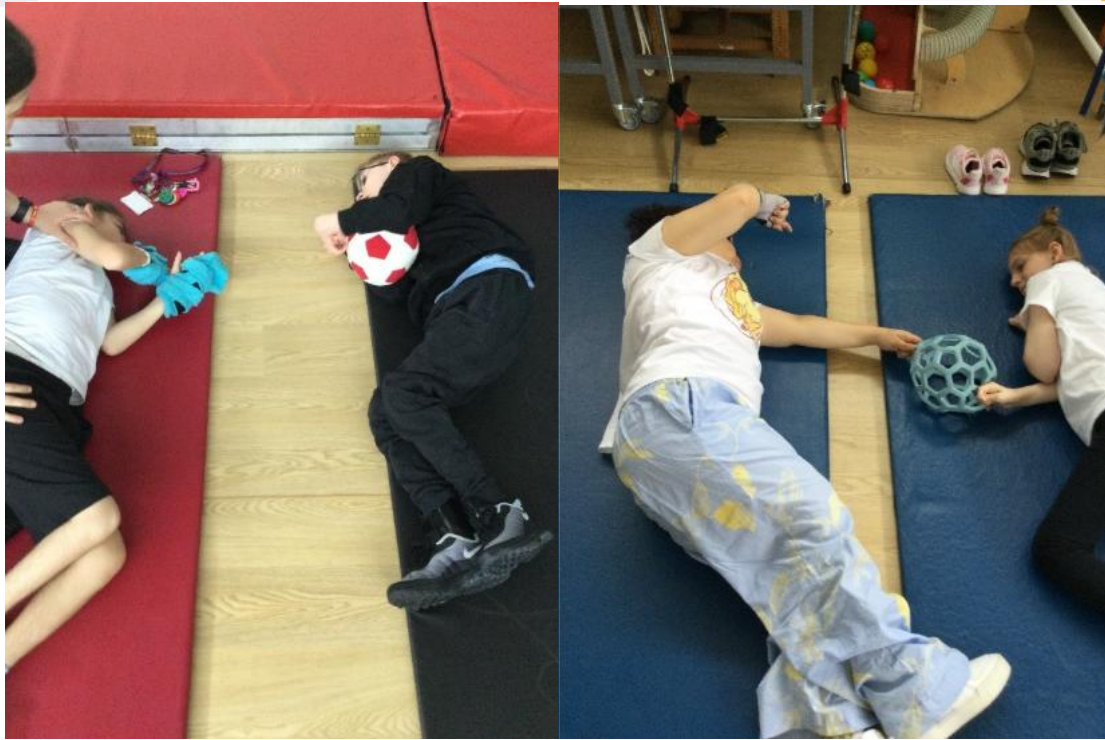
### World Cup Football Shirt Hunt

*To celebrate the excitement of the FIFA World Cup, our ELTBA group—and any other pupils who wanted to get involved—took part in a World Cup Football Shirt Hunt. Football shirts representing different nations were hidden throughout the classrooms, small gym or the Lower School Garden. Pupils searched for each shirt before completing the linked activities and challenges.*

*The hunt encouraged teamwork, observation and problem-solving while creating lots of excitement around this year's World Cup. It was a fantastic way to combine movement, learning and football-themed fun in a variety of different environments.*

*Across all three activities, pupils demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork. It was wonderful to see them encouraging one another, communicating effectively and confidently using their navigation skills while staying active.*

*These activities have not only developed pupils' physical literacy but have also promoted independence, confidence and enjoyment through active learning. We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by all our pupils and look forward to continuing to develop their orienteering skills in future PE lessons*



*Wow, a bumper crop of lovely stories and photos this week. Go Sport! Go PE! Go Orienteering!*



### **Chris Carr's Cool Class!**

Whenever you pop into Chris' class they're up to something exciting – what a great class it is! What have they been up to now I wonder? Let's see.....

# Class 2CC's Castle Adventures Continue

Our castle adventures continued after our exciting virtual reality castle trip. We talked together about what we had seen, heard and how it made us feel. The class enjoyed listening carefully to one another as everyone shared their favourite parts of the experience, making some thoughtful comparisons and asking each other questions.



We received a very important scroll from a king asking for our help to track down a pesky dragon! We worked together to create a class 'Wanted' poster before designing our own. It turns out our dragons had been up to all sorts of mischief. Some had stolen bags of gold coins, while others were simply making far too much noise! We wonder if anyone around school will spot them...

Our creative castle theme helped us practise lots of other important skills. We used a range of different shapes to build our own castles, developing our understanding of shape while also strengthening our fine motor skills through cutting and sticking. It was wonderful to see everyone's concentration and creativity shine through.



This week, we've been thinking about what makes us unique! After exploring different shields and the symbols they used, we designed our own personal shields to represent ourselves. Using our computing skills, we chose symbols to communicate the things that are important to us and the activities we enjoy, creating colourful designs that told everyone a little bit about who we are.



## Early Years – The Ducklings!

It's always so good to hear about what Kate & the team have been doing with their week. Such a lovely class – can't wait to hear the stories and match them to the pictures!

*This week we have continued our learning around our story Busy Bee's Busy Day. The children have enjoyed taking part in a range of activities linked to the story.*

*In cooking, we made honey oat biscuits, following a recipe with growing independence. The children were very engaged and involved in what they created*



*We also explored mark making by creating “bee marks” in lentils, using our hands and tools to experiment with different patterns and textures*



*In ELS, we introduced a new game called "Can you do the action?" where we sounded out words such as h-o-p and then performed the action. The children really enjoyed this activity and showed lots of enthusiasm and engagement. We have also continued sorting objects by their initial sounds*



*In maths, we have been exploring simple repeating patterns. The children copied patterns using sounds, such as clap, pat, clap, and continued patterns linked to their own interests. They all did a super job of recognising and continuing patterns*



*In our outdoor learning, the children enjoyed exploring the environment and made an exciting discovery – a snail! They were fascinated observing it closely and were so enthusiastic that we just had to bring it back into the classroom... where it may have joined us for afternoon snack!*



**Therapy Star of the Week**

**Alessia is great and Ash has had her working really hard this week – so this is a great one. Let's hear what's been happening...**

**Alessia!**



**Key Drivers: Independence**

**Alessia in 3HB is Ash's Therapy Star of the Week as she has been working extremely hard in all her physical activities throughout the week!!**

**In Hydrotherapy Alessia has been developing her hip against the resistance of the water to support her stepping on land**

**In MOVE transdisciplinary session this week Alessia was working on using her right upper limb reaching out for targets, or collecting beanbags whilst engaging in a rebound session**

Finally, in the classroom her sitting balance on a conventional chair has been progressing amazingly this year, she has really improved her ability to return to midline and remain sitting tall, improving her confidence, endurance and safety!

Just look at her beautiful upright sitting posture when sitting independently in her PE session this week!!

Well done Alessia!!! Therapy STAR!!!



### **Ben's Gardening Club**

We love Gardening Club! And they've done a great job! Let's hear from Ben and see some nice pictures of it!



*Gardening Club has been hard at work clearing the beds from weeds and prepping the soil for new arrivals. One lucky student managed to get an up-close interview with a friendly ladybird!*







*We love Gardening Club! And ladybirds!*



## Centre for Life Dinosaur Exhibition!

Ooh, this sounds exciting! Let's see what this is all about and what's occurred.....



### Post-16 Therapy Trip

*This week, Brian, Ella-Rose and Matthew visited The Centre for Life Dinosaur Exhibition with Post-16 Therapists Jenna, Emily and Rebecca. The students worked well together to plan a fantastic day out!*

*Throughout the trip, students demonstrated excellent independence skills by using travel apps to navigate their journey, research bus routes, and check bus timetables. They also had many opportunities to develop and practice their communication skills within the community.*

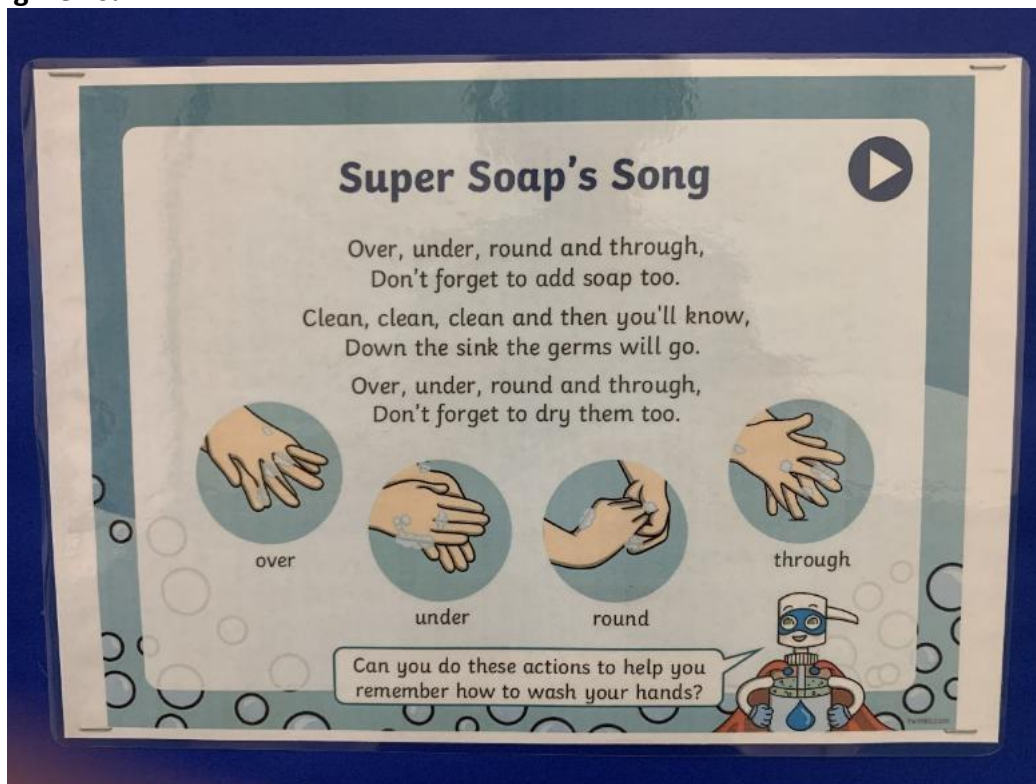
*The visit was filled with fun and learning opportunities, as students explored the various dinosaur-themed activities*



*Excellent trip! And nice one Matthew chap!*



## Nursing News!



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. Let's see what they're talking about this week – looks like they're carrying on the theme from last week....

*At school, we're encouraging the students to use a fun handwashing song to help them remember the steps for washing their hands thoroughly. Making handwashing enjoyable helps the students build good hygiene habits that can last a lifetime*

*The students are leaning the rhyme and as they sing, the students are encouraged to practice the different hand movements*

- **Over** – washing the backs of their hands
- **Under** – Washing their palms and wrists
- **Round** – rubbing around their thumbs
- **Through** – cleaning between the fingers

*Students learn best through repetition, movement, and fun. The song:*

- *Helps children wash for long enough*
- *Encourages them to clean all areas of their hands*
- *Builds independence and confidence in self-care routines*
- *Reinforces the importance of keeping germs away*

*We would love for you to join in at home! Singing the song together during hand washing can help your child remember the routine and strengthen the learning they do at school.*

*Developing good hygiene habits is an important part of keeping ourselves and others healthy. By using the same song at school and home, we can help the students become more confident and effective hand washers*



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 a lovely message about culture from Aylisha

*This week, the BfL team have continued to provide consistent, proactive support to staff in managing behaviour incidents across the school. The team have been visible and responsive, ensuring that colleagues feel supported both during and after incidents, while maintaining a calm and structured approach with students.*

*Alongside responding to incidents, the focus has remained on reinforcing positive behaviour strategies, de-escalation techniques, and modelling best practice in line with our Positive Behaviour Support approach. This ongoing work is helping to sustain a consistent behaviour culture and strengthen staff confidence in managing challenging situations.*

*Looking ahead to next week, one of our NAPPI trainers will be attending additional training with NAPPI UK focused on RREC (Reducing Risk during Essential Care). This will further enhance our staff's capacity to support students safely, particularly in situations requiring essential care interventions, as we prepare for the next academic year.*

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact the BfL Team

- [aylisha.holland@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:aylisha.holland@percyhedley.org.uk)
- [c.orr@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:c.orr@percyhedley.org.uk)
-  **Call:** 0191 216 1811

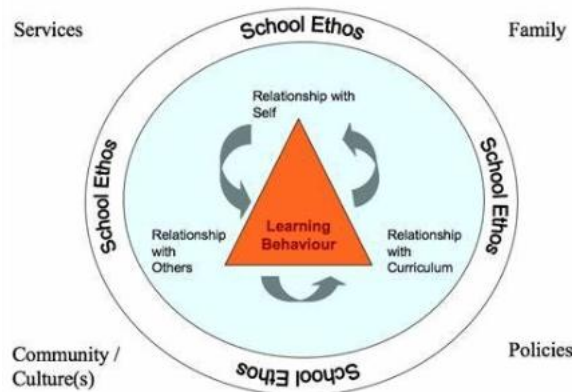


Figure 1: Behaviour for Learning conceptual framework



## 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!



### Parent Carer Forum 24.06.26 from 9.30 – 11am

*Next week we are holding our final Parent Carer Forum of this year. The focus is on **independent travel**, which is a really important aspect of PfA for many of our students and their families. Please signpost this through diaries or a phone call for those who you identify might benefit from this information. The lovely Rebecca Carr and some of the OT team is supporting with this and it will be great!*

*Parents can attend in person or via TEAMS. The content will include*

- Supported independent travel
- Independence in the community
  - Staying safe
  - Developing social skills

*Thanks for your support with this. Let me know if you require any further information*

*If you have questions relating to any aspect of Preparation for Adulthood please speak with your class team or email:*

*PfA Lead: Hannah Fuller [Hannah.fuller@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:Hannah.fuller@percyhedley.org.uk), Careers lead: Louise Finlay [l.finlay@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:l.finlay@percyhedley.org.uk) or Family Liaison Officer: Eileen Robinson [e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk)*

*Here is the link to our PfA resources: <https://www.percyhedley.org.uk/percy-hedley-school/preparing-for-adulthood-resources/>*



## **Exams!**

A message from Kat!

*Thank you to every candidate that is sitting exams this year – we are in the hight of the exams season from now until 17 June with many different subjects to be sat*

*It can be an overwhelming and challenging time for some, and we are committed to give our candidates the best chance possible with support through organisation before , during and after the exam*

*Good luck to all candidates for their GCSEs and Functional Skills exams – you can do it!*

*Correspondence regarding result days and how to contact us to receive your results will be communicated in due course.*

*Let's be positive and upbeat 😊*





## 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



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

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](mailto:r.fletcher@percyhedley.org.uk) or [aylisha.holland@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto: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

*If you would like support or advice about online safety, please don't hesitate to get in touch.*



## 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!



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

*Following recent discussions about schools offering later start times during the World Cup, we would like to confirm that Percy Hedley School will continue to operate as normal*

*We understand that some matches may finish late; however, all students are still expected to arrive at school on time each day*

*The school day begins promptly at **9:00am**. Any student arriving after this time will be marked as late unless there is a pre-arranged appointment and an absence form has been submitted in advance*

*If you have any questions, please contact [kelly.richardson@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:kelly.richardson@percyhedley.org.uk)*

*Thank you, as always, for your continued support*

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*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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**. As we tend to have more parents available in the morning, this will be from 9.45-10.45. Please come along and share your thoughts and suggestions. The final 6 of 12 100 club draws will be done too. If you would like to join, please get in touch

We continue to fund resources for the 3 MOVE activity days throughout the year. We are liaising with Jo Ferguson to see if there is anything we can support for the This is Me festival in July. Last year we funded some of the workshops

If you would like to discuss the FoPHS, share your ideas etc please contact [e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk](mailto:e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk)

The link to the FoPHS information on the website is here: <https://www.percyhedley.org.uk/percy-hedley-school/parent-and-carers/pta/>

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](mailto:e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk)



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



2024-2027

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*

*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](mailto:t.smithson@percyhedley.org.uk)*



## **Stars of the Week!**

***That reflect our School Values!***

**ENGAGEMENT  
Amelia!**

**Teamwork!**



**Amelia uses her VOCA to encourage her class friends to participate in lessons, identify who has the next turn during group work and communicates who is absent from lessons. Marvellous stuff, Amelia – STAR!!!**



**ELTBA**

**Ellis!**

**Resilience!**

**Ellis in 3RC has been showing fantastic resilience lately practising his cross-legged sitting. He has been working really hard to keep his balance, build his strength, and sit unsupported for as long as he can. It might be tricky, but he keeps on persevering.**

**Well done Ellis! STAR!!!**



**Ellis the STAR!!!**



## **APPROPRIATE ACCREDITATION**

**Some great folks in KS4!**



**POST-16!**

**Love our Sixth Form!!! It's a great time to be a student with lots of exciting things happening. Let's see!!! STARS!!!**

**And it seems that our post-16 students have been very resilient this week!**

## Resilience

**Michael has worked really well this week. He has been very focused and enthusiastic in lessons. Well done!!!**

**Kian engaged well with staff from the Hub in preparation for transition. Great stuff!!!**

**Matthew worked really well in humanities. He was so interested in Neil Armstrong. Brilliant!!!**

**Gracie has been really engaged in everything this week. She is great. Fantastic!!!**

**Andrew has independently produced some amazing English work. Well done!!!**



### 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*

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June is Father's Day. Here are some useful signs to share**

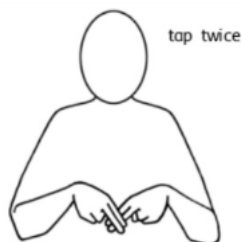
**Happy, Father/Dad, day, card, gift**

**Here is my video:**

**[https://youtu.be/JgDRT4\\_nqvY](https://youtu.be/JgDRT4_nqvY)**



happy



top twice

Father/Dad/Daddy  
Day  
card  
present/gift

Here is Makaton with Lucinda signing 'Happy Father's Day'  
<https://youtu.be/8pxnmSyQbol?si=Ypjllk1VVP2PXyhK>

Have a lovely week!

Keep signing!

Julie

### *Dates for your diary*

- *Summer MOVE – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> July*
- *Sports Days – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> July*
  - *Prom – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July*
- *Whole School Transitions Day – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July*
  - *This Is Me – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July*
  - *Leavers' Assembly – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July*
- *South American Dance Workshop – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July*
- *End of term for pupils – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July*

- *Start of term for pupils – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September*

*And finally...it's 2 weeks away.....*

### *The invitations*

Finally finally (though we hope for a few more weeks yet!)

#### *COME ON ENGLAND!*

*Our lovely catering team have done something nice for the World Cup, just as they do with lots of events and celebration things – this time it's the World Cup! Howay!*



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

*\*\*\*\*\**

*Our Key Drivers  
Communication, Wellbeing, Independence*

