

Percy Hedley School's

Whole School Blog

News, Stars, Talent Show, Girls' Football, Singing Hands & History around us -
from John & the PHS Team

Friday 5th June 2026

Hello again everyone

And Welcome Back to the final half term of this school year! It's always a busy one! Not only are there only four weeks until the Prom(!) there's so much else to fit in too, including Transition Days, This Is Me, Final Assemblies and all sorts. It's a good & exciting time where we look to the future, but it can also contain nerves with some things evolving sometimes. Hopefully we'll be together as we do it, whether through Annual Reviews, placements, plans for new classes or anything else

We've already been busy, with the Singing Hands having come in, the Talent Show before half term and an amazing history wall poster in the dining room. We also had some training on Monday in AI & Assistive Technology, as well as Moving & Handling and a few other things

We're looking forward to this term and all that it brings. Have a look at Eileen's blog too, or the rest of the website for whatever you're interested in – or let us know what you're missing finding out about. Thanks for being with us, and all the best for the next couple of months

Take care

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

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

Since our last meeting, the outdoor seating area got approved and the Student Council worked together to decide on the colours. These have now been delivered and maintenance are working with the Student Council to arrange the best position for them in the school yard.

Next week is our Father's Day sale (Friday) - unfortunately we do not have a lot of gifts for sale so we are still looking for donations.

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!



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 this week on making the library more accessible

THE YEAR OF READING!



At our Percy Hedley School, we are committed to making reading, communication and learning accessible for all. This term, we have been working with our Speech & Language Therapists, Julie and Kate, on an exciting project to bring books to life through Makaton

Books from our library have been shared with every class, and staff are identifying key Makaton signs for essential vocabulary within each story. These signs will be stored inside the books, creating a practical resource to support both staff and students during shared reading



Using Makaton alongside spoken language helps to develop understanding, strengthen communication and make stories more engaging and accessible. This initiative is an important step in making our library more inclusive and ensuring that every learner can access, enjoy and participate in reading

We would like to thank Julie and Kate for their invaluable support and expertise. We look forward to seeing these resources used across the school and the positive impact they will have on communication, learning and a love of reading

Happy Reading!

Chris



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. Ash usually writes the column – let's see what she has for us this week!

SOME GREAT PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES TO START THE TERM!

We were delighted to welcome our PHS students back for the first week of the FINAL summer term, and what a fantastic start it has been! This week has focused on re-establishing routines and our students' have returned full of energy, ready to engage, reconnect with friends, and get moving again.

Our ELTBA MOVE Session was full of exciting and highly engaging activities, tailored specifically for our students' needs. The MOVE session embodies our transdisciplinary approach with the session jointly led by physiotherapist and speech and language therapist with support from teachers and even rebound trained LSA staff all encouraging physical movement and improved communication in a fun and functional way!

Have a look at Alessia working on her sitting balance and use of bilateral hand coordination and Dylan improving his sitting posture with lower limb stretch (post operation) while engaging in some games.



Next, we have Chloe and Ellis were working hard on standing but also reaching for objects to play GIANT connect 4.



Toby was showing us how masterfully he can navigate obstacles whilst riding a trike independently.



Ellis loved his turn on the VeloPlus bike even giving us a big wave!!



Finally Wren was highly motivated by her turn on the rebound trampoline and even communicating her turn to staff so she could also engage in the giant connect four also!



The MOVE session was a great success placing an emphasis on building our students' independence, functional movement, and participation through meaningful and enjoyable physical activities. Most importantly - SO MUCH FUN!!



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

PSHE UPDATE – HEALTHY LIFESTYLES THIS HALF TERM

Hello everyone,

This half term, our PSHE focus across the school is Healthy Lifestyles. We'll be helping our pupils build positive habits, understand their bodies and minds, and make healthy choices in a fun and engaging way.

What Each Key Stage Will Be Learning:

KS2 – Healthy Eating (Primary)

Our Key Stage 2 pupils will be exploring the basics of healthy eating. We'll be learning about balanced diets, food groups, and why making healthy choices matters.

Expect lots of practical discussions and activities to help children understand how food fuels their bodies.

KS3 – Mental Wellbeing (Secondary)

In KS3, the focus shifts to mental health and emotional wellbeing. Pupils will learn about recognising emotions, managing stress, and ways to look after their mental health.

We will also encourage open conversations about feelings and where to go for support.

KS4 – Healthy Eating & Physical Exercise

Our KS4 learners will look at how diet and physical activity work together. They will explore how lifestyle choices impact overall health and wellbeing. This includes building independence in making healthy choices that support long-term health.

Post-16 – Medicinal Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco

For our Post-16 students, learning will focus on understanding substances and their effects.

We will explore safe use of medicines, and the impact of alcohol and tobacco on the body and decision-making.

We use the PSHE Association SEND Framework, which ensures all pupils can access age-appropriate statutory content at their own developmental stage.

This allows us to tailor learning so it is meaningful, accessible and relevant for every child.

If you would like to see any of our curriculum resources, or have ideas about how we can personalise learning further for your child, please do not hesitate to contact your class team or myself:

j.ferguson@percyledley.org.uk

CAREERS

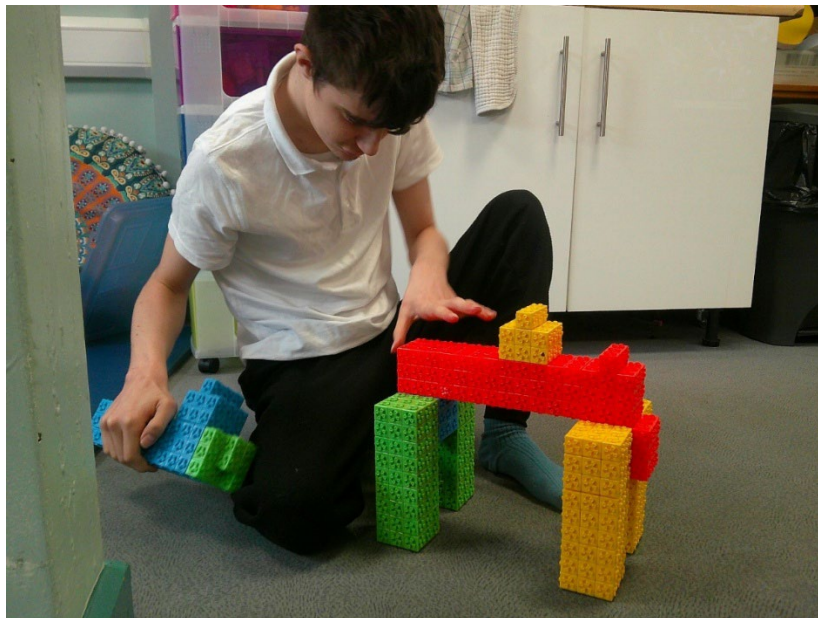
It has been wonderful to see careers-linked learning happening in class.

4MM have been exploring different pathways through hands-on activities:

Leon has been using building blocks creatively, developing construction and design skills

Ellie has been practising hair styling and make-up, showing fantastic focus and creativity

We enjoy seeing pupils discover what they enjoy and what they might like to do in the future.





DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

4MM also enjoyed watching Singing Hands this afternoon.

Through music, songs, games and activities, pupils explored Makaton, helping to build communication skills in an inclusive and engaging way. It was a joyful session and a lovely reminder of how we celebrate different ways of communicating.





Thank you, as always, for your continued support
We are looking forward to a happy, healthy and active half term ahead

Personal Development Team



Wellbeing – Resilience Day!

Let's hear from Andy about the latest Resilience Day in the school, just before half term. It was great – fabulous atmosphere!

As part of our recent Resilience Day on Friday 22nd May, students took part in a fantastic school talent show, where we saw an incredible display of confidence, creativity and courage. Students and staff spent the afternoon outdoors, soaking up the sun and watching the amazing talent on display! It takes real bravery to step up and perform in front of others, and this is an important part of our resilience framework, helping young people to face challenges, take positive risks and grow in confidence. We are incredibly proud of every student who took part, whether on stage, behind the scenes or making the refreshments and we hope they feel proud of themselves too for getting involved and supporting one another so brilliantly






Marvellous scenes at the Talent Show, part of the latest Resilience Day!



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?

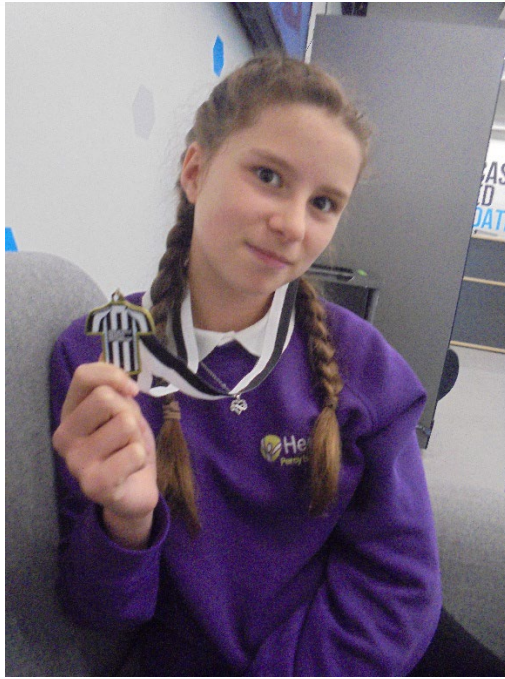


 *Final game of the season for the Newcastle Foundation girls and what a way to finish!*

Representing Percy Hedley School throughout the season, the girls have shown amazing sportsmanship, great team spirit and fantastic commitment every step of the way. Their hard work and dedication were rewarded in the final game as they came away with an amazing winners' trophy to cap off a brilliant season.

Every player should be incredibly proud of themselves and the way they represented the school both on and off the pitch. A fantastic achievement and a great way to end the season





Brilliant Girls' Football! Well done all!



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!



We have had a lovely first week back after half term and the children have settled back into our classroom routines well



The highlight of our week was a very special visit from Singing Hands. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience, taking part in a range of songs supported with Makaton signs



During the session, the children explored a variety of props linked to the songs, which really helped to support their understanding and engagement. It was lovely to see children attempting to join in with the Makaton signs and choosing the songs they wanted to hear



There was lots of smiling and participation, and it really was such a special and enjoyable session for everyone! Please enjoy some more of the lovely photos from this experience





Fabulous! Looks like such a great time – and it was!



Therapy Star of the Week

Malhar – Alli!



Key Driver: Independence

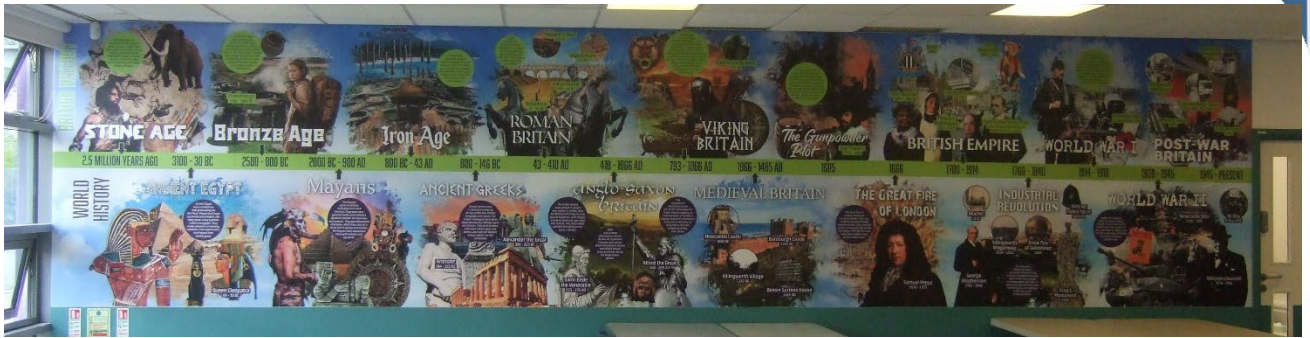
Malhar – Alli – is the Therapy Star of the Week!

Abbie has been working with Alli and has this to tell us: Ali has made amazing progress in her physiotherapy sessions with her standing and stepping abilities- what a superstar!

Great stuff in the Sensory Motor Suite!



It's About Time – with Russell!



It's About Time!

This week, the school hall has been transformed by the installation of an enormous timeline!

Linked to those topics covered in our History curriculum, it charts eras from The Stone Age to the present day and incorporates significant dates pertaining to our local area.

We are excited to integrate this resource into our schoolwork to provide visual and written information, develop our oracy skills and to chronologically link our current work to our previous studies.

The pictures show the timeline in full and a close-up of one of the time periods. The choice of 'Anglo-Saxon Britain' is not a random one as more exciting news relating to this era is on its way! Look out for more information in future weeks!



PHS has been around for a while – but not that long!



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



This half term we are going to be learning about handwashing and why it is so important to keep our hands clean

We will start by displaying information on our nurses notice board

The children will be encouraged to think about when we should wash our hands and why it helps to keep us healthy

Later in the term we will get hands on with some fun classroom activities to explore the best way to wash our hands

We look forward to helping the children to become handwashing superstars and encouraging healthy habits that can be used both at school and at home





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

It has been a busy and productive first week back for the BfL team. The focus has been on re-establishing routines, supporting students with their transition back into school, and maintaining a consistent approach to behaviour across the setting.

Two of our NAPPI trainers have been away this week completing their annual recertification, ensuring that our team continues to deliver safe and effective practice in line with current guidance.


Looking ahead, this half term we will begin planning and preparing our BfL training for the next academic year. This will include reviewing current practice, identifying key priorities, and ensuring that staff training continues to support a positive and consistent behaviour culture across the school.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the BfL team

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

aylisha.holland@percyhedley.org.uk

c.orr@percyhedley.org.uk

 Call: 0191 216 1811

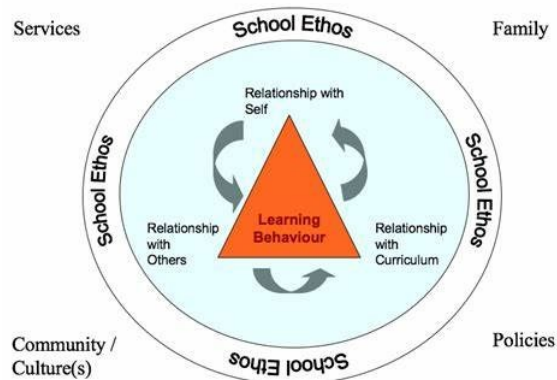


Figure 1: Behaviour for Learning conceptual framework



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!



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, Careers lead: Louise Finlay l.finlay@percyhedley.org.uk or Family Liaison Officer: Eileen Robinson e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk

[Here is the link to our PfA resources:](#)



Exams!

A message from Kat!

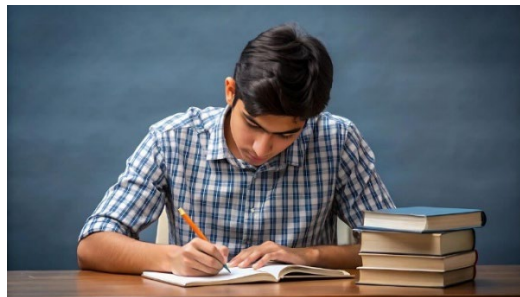
Thank you to every candidate that is sitting exams this year – we are in the hight of the exams season from now until 17 June with many different subjects to be sat

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

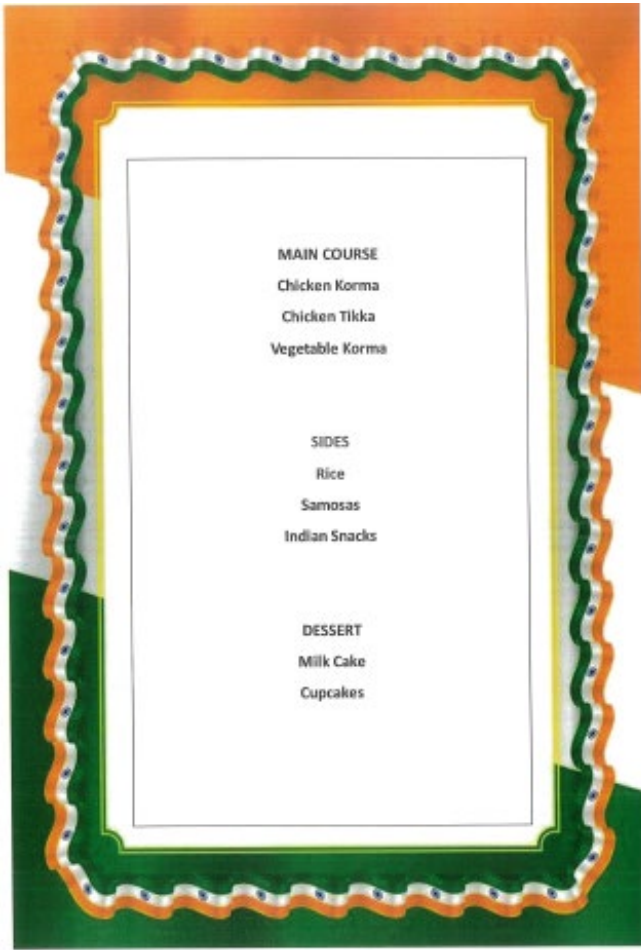
Good luck to all candidates for their GCSEs and Functional Skills exams – you can do it!

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



This was the menu for one of our special days! It went down very well! Thanks to our lovely kitchen team!

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



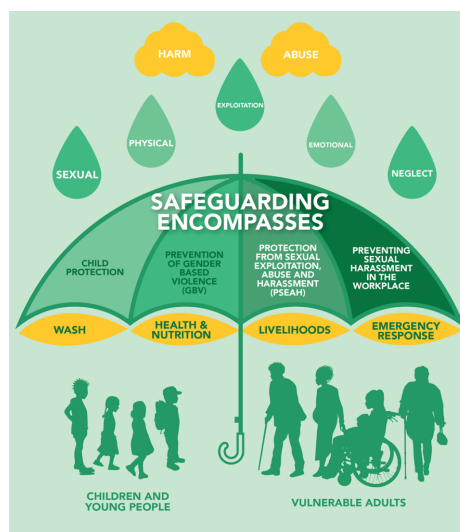


Safeguarding



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. This week, Rebecca is giving us a quick guide to an updated government document that's come out. Let's have a read!

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:

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](#)



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.

Since the start of this Summer term, we've had 11 requests for holidays during term time

This is a significant quantity

Just a reminder that these won't be approved under any circumstances. Being in school regularly makes a big difference to students' learning and progress, and time off during term can really impact that. We'd really appreciate it if holidays are planned outside of term dates. Requests during term time will continue to be declined. Please look to plan ahead and schedule those exciting family moments together around the set school holidays avoiding any unauthorised periods of absence.

Thanks for your continued support

*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. 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 8th 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

[The link to the FoPHS information on the website is here:](#)

[Join the 100 club](#)

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

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

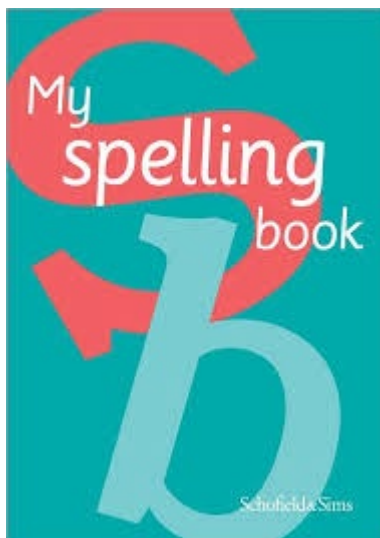
Alex!

Resilience!



Our Pathway Star is Alex for showing great resilience and confidence. Before the half term, Alex enjoyed trying a speedboat ride and was eager to take on this new experience and try new boat rides over the half term with his family! We know the photo was in the blog last week but we liked it so much we couldn't resist it!!!

Well done, Alex! Speedboat STAR!!!



ELTBA

Seb!

Resilience!

ELTBA star of the week in 3LL/RM is Seb for amazing resilience in spellings and trying his best with new words. Well done, Seb – STAR!!!



APPROPRIATE ACCREDITATION

Some great folks in KS4! But the starriest this week is....

Harry!

Respect!

Harry for his lovely manners when interacting with Singing Hands on Thursday! His behaviour was amazing and he remembered to say please and thank you every time and also asked if it was okay to go and speak to them to say how great of a time he had! STAR!!



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!!!

Resilience

Olivia for independent preparation for learning. She got her equipment out without any prompting. Fantastic!!! STAR!!!

Casey B has been very mature and effectively solved a relationship problem without any help. Well done!!! STAR!!!

Gracie tried so hard at the fitness instructor task in employability. She was brilliant. Well done!!! STAR!!!

Leighton was absolutely amazing at surfing. He worked so well and coped with the trip too. Everyone was so impressed. Very well done!!! STAR!!!

Respect and Teamwork

Jayden demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication skills at his work experience at Jarow Hall. Well done!!! STAR!!!

Noah and Alex worked really well together to support each other and staff in using a new computer design programme. Fantastic!!! STARS!!!

Teamwork

Matthew kept us all entertained on a train trip to Haltwhistle. He was brilliant. STAR!!!



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 1st June The Singing Hands are coming this week!



An amazing opportunity to enjoy some music and songs and learn some new signs with the experts!

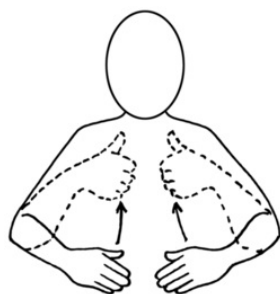
Suzanne (on the left) will be coming with Anna who is a local Makaton Tutor.

Here are some useful signs:

Hello, how are you, music, sing, dance, more, again and finished.



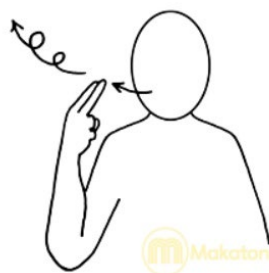
hello



how are you?



music



to sing



to dance

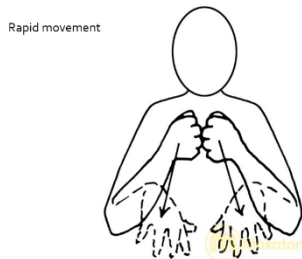


Flat hand
palm down,
covers top
of other fist

more



again



Rapid movement

finished

Let's have a lovely week full of singing and signing!



Julie





And finally...it's 4 weeks away.....



The invitations

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

Our Key Drivers

Communication, Wellbeing, Independence