Percy Hedley School's

Whole School Blog

News, Stars, Hadrian's Wall Comes to School, Music Therapy & Dates for Your Diary - from John & the PHS Team

Friday 12th June 2026

Hello again everyone

We're properly into the final half term now, and things are going quickly, with lots of trips, lots of outside activities, and lots of planning for September & beyond! We also had a governor meeting this week with a presentation about some of our work. Hopefully you'll see something that interests you in the blog this, or Eileen's, or elsewhere on the website

Transition information-sharing – where we plan with the pupils for September - within specific curriculum pathways will take place during the week beginning 22nd June. Curriculum Leads such as Kasia, Sarah & Rebecca will communicate further details nearer the time

In the meantime, the sun is shining as I write this, so I wish you all a very happy weekend full of the stuff you want it to be full of as much as possible. Hopefully we'll see you soon – please do look at the Diary Dates near the bottom of this blog

Thanks for reading, all the best and 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

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 is today

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!

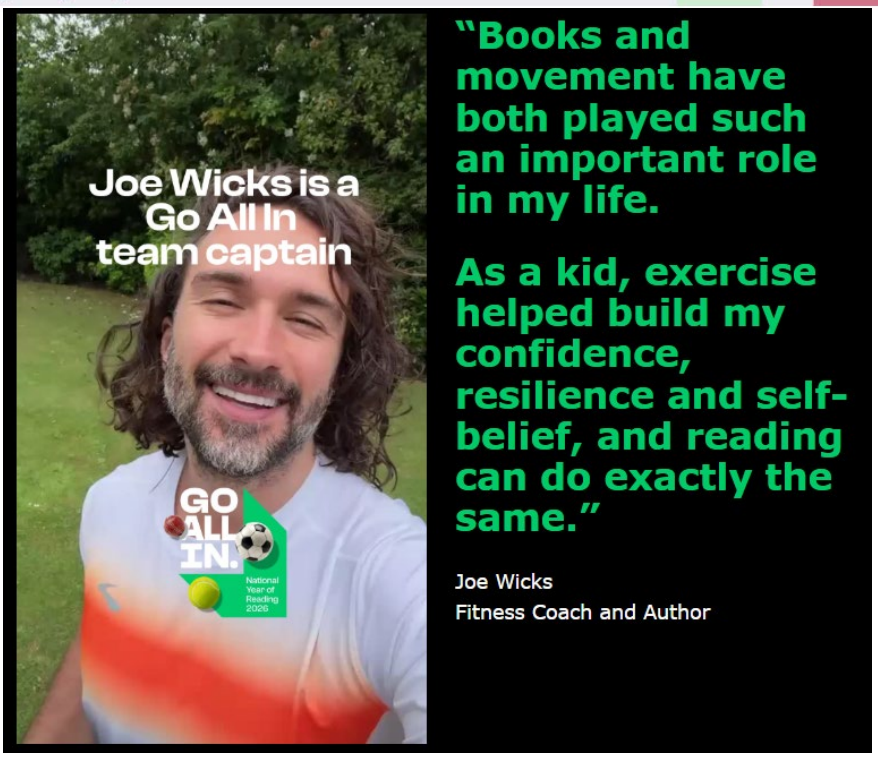
Literacy

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!

As the World Cup starts this week, as does the Summer of Sport, with the National Year of Reading 2026. There are a range of events planned through the summer term, aligned with key sporting events (not just football but also cricket, tennis, formula 1, and the Commonwealth Games - there's a lot going on and that's without school sports days!)

The message for the National Year of Reading is 'Go All In: if you're into it, read into it', so they're using the Summer of Sport to get people who are into sport - reading about sport! They have a range of famous faces as 'team captains' to help spread the important message, including Joe Wickes who came to visit Percy Hedley School a few year back...



Hear more from Joe Wicks here

They have also provided an enormous recommendations list, you can filter it by age or sport, and there are a lot of recommendations for adults too - 'Go All In' applies to adults just as much as children and young people! It includes recommendations for podcasts, graphic novels, comics, magazines as well as books - it's well worth a look for anyone who is into sport in your life: Read into Sports - Go All In Recommendations

We'll be making sure to get some extra sport themed books for our library, which will make a lovely display next to the Makaton sign supported books we talked about last week!

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

GYM POSSIBLE

Here at PHS, we are always looking for opportunities that promote independence, wellbeing and physical activity for our wonderful students inside and outside of school. Recently, two of our students, Shae and Phillip have been attending Gym Possible, an accessible gym dedicated to making exercise available to people with physical disabilities.

Gym Possible was founded with the mission of "Making Exercise Accessible" and provides a welcoming, inclusive environment with specialist equipment, accessible facilities and expert trained staff to support. The gym is designed to help individuals build strength, confidence and fitness in a safe and supportive setting who understand the needs of people with physical disabilities.

The adaptive supports help improve grip and hand positioning, allowing our PHS students to participate in exercises that may otherwise be difficult. Both students have shown fantastic determination and enthusiasm during their visits. They have

an opportunity to develop new skills, increased their physical activity levels and develop their resilience when trying new challenges.

Let's hear from our wonderful physiotherapists Mary and Neill who have been supporting their students Shae and Phillip.

Last year during his transdisciplinary sessions Shae sought information about local gyms and the accessibility to these. He is now undertaking PT sessions weekly at Gym Possible. This is a huge achievement as he can be anxious to try new activities - Mary

Here we can see Shae accessing the adaptive hand equipment and just look at the excitement on his face!! Great Work Shae!

Next, we hear from Neil who even supported Phillip by attending the gym session with him.

Phillip visited Gym possible yesterday afternoon to showcase what he has been working on since becoming a gym member. He used a variety of adapted resistance machines to develop his upper limb strength and range of motion. He is specifically focusing on triceps development. The gym provides specialist gloves called Active hands which allow him to grip and be independent with his exercises. He also worked on his cardiovascular fitness and lower limb muscular endurance using the Moto Med.

Well done, Phillip!!

We are incredibly proud of both Shae and Phillip for their commitment to maintaining healthy lifestyles and look forward to seeing their continued progress as they develop their strength, confidence and independence through exercise!

Here is a link to the website for any further information: ***https://www.gympossible.co.uk/***

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?

Final game of the season for the Newcastle Foundation boys, and what a way to finish!

Representing Percy Hedley School throughout the season, the boys have shown outstanding sportsmanship, fantastic team spirit, and unwavering commitment every step of the way

Despite being without several team members for the final game, the boys adapted brilliantly and made the most of the squad available. Their determination really stood out from start to finish, and their resilience, teamwork and positive attitude were clear for everyone to see both on and off the pitch. Despite the challenges, they still came away with a well-deserved' trophy, making the achievement even more special

Every player should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved and the way they represented the school throughout the year. A fantastic achievement, some great memories made, and the perfect way to end the season

Great end to the season!

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...

The children had a fantastic time using the VR headsets to explore castles from around the world. This exciting experience sparked lots of discussion as we looked closely at the different castles and talked about their features, appearance, and the materials used to build them.

As part of our learning, we practised using positional language to describe where characters were in relation to the castle. The children confidently used words such as *in*, *on*, *next to*, and *under* to explain the characters' locations and develop their understanding of position and direction.

We have been putting our knowledge of castles to good use by working together as a team to build our very own castle. The children have enjoyed sharing ideas and solving problems as they create features such as turrets and a drawbridge. We are now exploring different ways to add a moat to complete our impressive construction.

In STEM, we have been learning about how plants grow and what they need to stay healthy. The children have been carefully looking after our plants, making sure they receive enough water and light, while observing the changes that take place as they grow. They are nearly as tall as the beanstalk Jack climbed!

Singing Hands

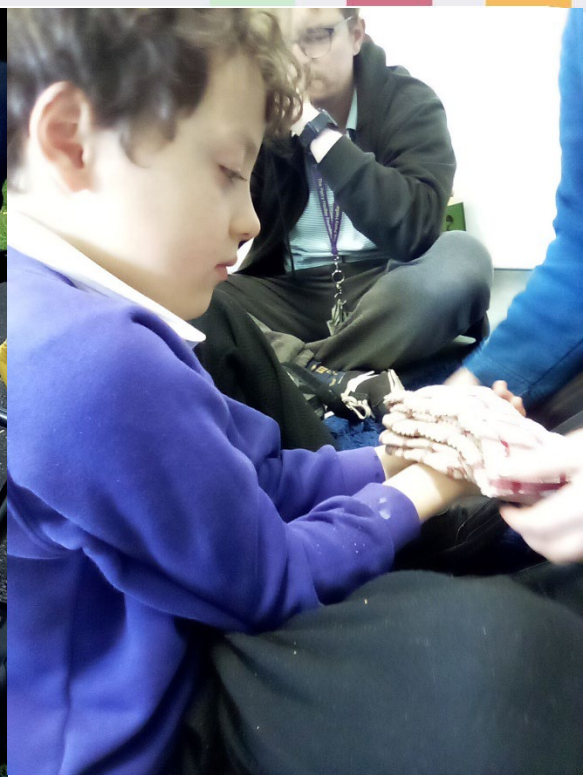
The Singing Hands, Suzanne and Anna came into school last week for a day of singing and Makaton signing with our students. They covered songs from nursery rhymes and action songs with Early Years to Disney tunes and pop songs with our older students. They even took requests! Everyone learned some new signs during the day, and they helped us sing and sign our new school song.

Have a look at some photos of the day. And keep an eye out on the Foundation's social media channels and website for more about the fantastic day!

Early Years – The Ducklings!

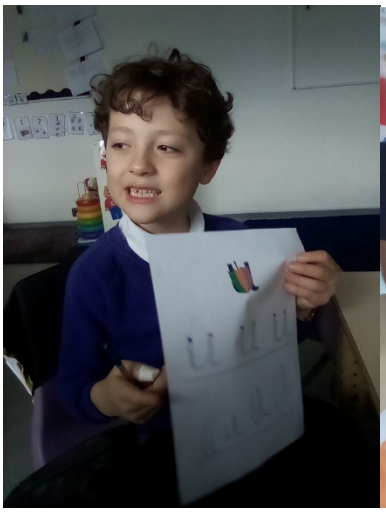
It's always so good to hear about what Kate & the team have been doing with their week. Such a lovely class – can't wait to hear the stories and match them to the pictures!

In Ducklings class we have been exploring all things bees! We have really enjoyed the story Busy Bee's Busy Day and joining in with different sensory activities linked to the story. For example, we felt the buzzing of the bee using a toothbrush on our hands, explored the warm sun using a warm cloth, and used tickly pipe cleaners to feel pollen.



We have been busy with lots of bee themed activities. The children have been developing their fine motor skills by following “bee lines” using their pointing finger. We also used lollipop sticks to make stripes on bees and had a go at copying simple patterns. We used bubble wrap and paint to make honeycomb prints and explored yellow chia seed slime and coloured rice for filling and mark making.

In ELS, we have been exploring the letter 'u' and have seen some lovely letter formation, and we have also enjoyed lots of time outdoors, exploring different areas of the environment. The hammocks and water wall have been a big favourite!



What a lovely week with The Ducklings

Therapy Star of the Week

Brandon!

Rebecca has been doing some important work with Brandon this week – let's hear her thoughts on why she is naming him as TSOTW!

Key Drivers: Communication & Independence

Brandon actively engaged in and contributed to an important accessibility audit hosted by Barratt Homes. He demonstrated great confidence when communicating with unfamiliar people and successfully applied strategies learned in therapy to ensure his communication was clear, effective, and well understood.

Brandon should be very proud of the professionalism, confidence, and self-advocacy skills he showed throughout the audit. Well done, Brandon!

It's Brandon!

Hadrian's Wall with English Heritage!

Sophie and Andrew from the English Heritage visited school this week. They have been awarded a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Shared Horizons Project at Housesteads Roman Fort in Northumberland, a partnership project with the National Trust and Northumberland County Council. The funding will be used to transform the site on Hadrian's Wall to make it easier for more people to explore. They are visiting a range of local school to find out all of the ways Housesteads Roman Fort could be inclusive and meaningful for everyone. We enjoyed exploring 3D printed replicas of Roman artifacts. Fingers crossed we can visit soon and have an amazing time there!

We then had a battle between the Romans and the Picts with our ‘swords’ and our very own wall! It was over seen by ‘Emperor Retal’ who used a switch to start the battle.

Music Therapy with 3BE!

Great to hear from Beth about her class' music therapy sessions! And knowing Beth there'll be some great pictures too! Yep, scroll down – you know it!

3BE love having music therapy with Chris on Thursday afternoons, it is always a highlight of our week! Chris listens to us singing or watches us move and incorporates this into the song which is always so much fun!

Music therapy supports pupils' communication, emotional expression, and social skills in a fun and engaging way. It can help to build confidence, reduce anxiety, and develop connections with others through shared musical experiences. Most importantly, it brings joy and allows pupils to express themselves in their own unique ways

MOVE

We love music therapy!!!!!!!!

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.....

We are excited to share that we now have a new handwashing display board in school to help children learn about the importance of good hand hygiene

The display includes an interactive handwashing song that encourages children to wash their hands correctly. By combining music, visuals and practical learning, children are developing healthy habits in a fun and engaging way

Good hand washing helps prevent the spread of germs and supports a healthy school environment. The children have enjoyed using the display, and we encourage families to continue practicing these important routines at home

Excellent display!

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

Our BfL approach is rooted in:

Consistency – clear expectations across all areas of school life

Positive relationships – building trust between staff and pupils

Restorative practice – supporting pupils to reflect, repair, and move forward

High expectations – encouraging all pupils to achieve their best

Staff continue to work collaboratively to embed a strong behaviour culture, ensuring that expectations are understood and reinforced positively each day. We also recognise that working together with families is important too. Strong partnerships with families are essential. We encourage parents and carers to:

Reinforce routines and expectations at home

Communicate with school about any concerns

Celebrate successes with their children

By working together, we can create the best outcomes for all pupils.

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

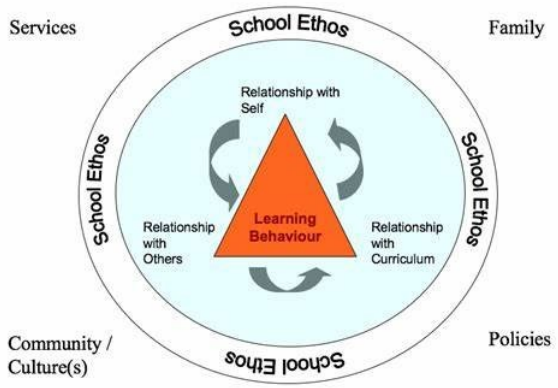


Figure 1: Behaviour for Learning conceptual framework

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!

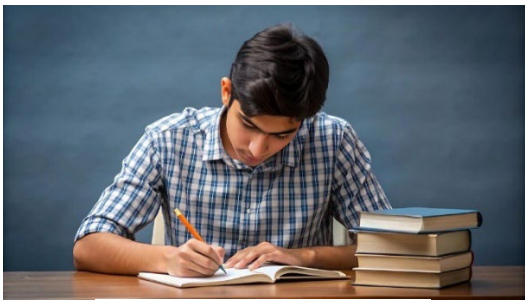
Thank you to every candidate that is sitting exams this year – we are in the hight of the exams season from now until 17 June with many different subjects to be sat

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

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 – Staff Training

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!

This week in school, we began delivering our Safeguarding Bitesize Training for all staff. This ongoing program ensures that staff remain up to date with current safeguarding guidance and feel confident in responding appropriately to any concerns

Over the next few weeks, staff will be engaging with a range of key safeguarding topics, including:

ROTH (Risks Outside the Home)

Sexual Harassment

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

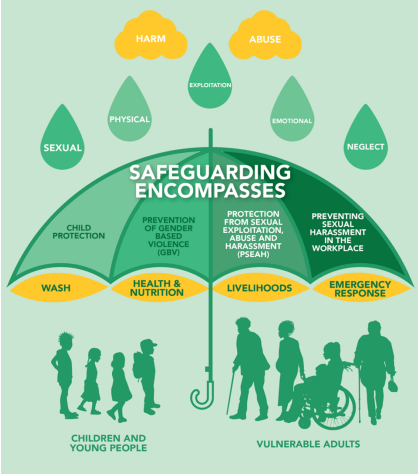
County Lines

Safe Sleep

Allergen Awareness

These short, focused training sessions help to strengthen our whole-school safeguarding culture and reinforce our commitment to keeping all children safe

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 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

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***

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

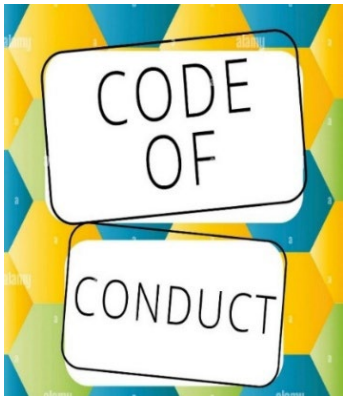
A telephone call to the school office before 9.30 on the first day of absence if the absence was unplanned, eg illness

Email to class teacher or PHSattendance@percyhedley.org.uk.address 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 here

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!

LPPA Leading Parent Partnership Award 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

Stars of the Week!

That reflect our School Values!

ENGAGEMENT

Emily!

Teamwork!

We are proud to celebrate Emily as our Star of the Pathway for her great teamwork and for building her confidence in using Intensive Interaction! STAR!!!

ELTBA

Archie!

Teamwork & Respect!

Our ELTBA star of the week is Archie in 2CC for great teamwork and respect while sharing tools and resources with others. STAR!!!

APPROPRIATE ACCREDITATION

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

Respect

Ellie B for maturity of answering questions from visitors and generally being helpful in class to staff and students. STAR!!!

Teamwork

Matt A for lovely encouragement and support with a peer in Outdoor Learning last week. He managed to get them up to the session as well as sat with and chatted with them throughout, asking if they wanted to come and join the rest of the group around the fire and just really trying his best to make sure he felt included. 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

Logan has been incredibly resilient and coped very well with a difficult situation. Well done!!!

Ella Rose has been fantastic all week. She has worked so hard. Excellent!!!

Phillip worked very well in humanities despite a lot of distractions. Brilliant!!

Faith joined the dance group for a session. She was a very welcome addition. Wonderful!!

Marvellous Sixth Form STARS!!!

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 8th June

The Men's FIFA World Cup starts this week!

World Cup 2026 | Match schedule, fixtures & stadiums

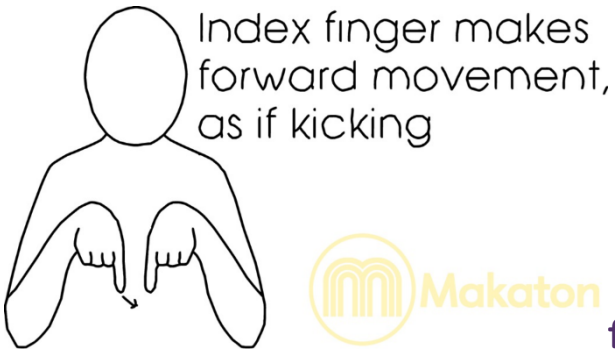
Here are some useful football signs:

Football, win, lose, goal and team

Here is my video:

https://youtu.be/-8_45dtVKOs

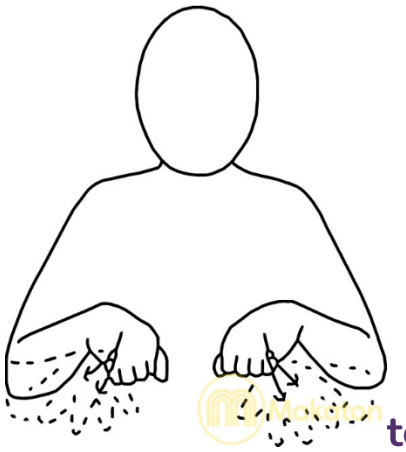
Here are the signs:



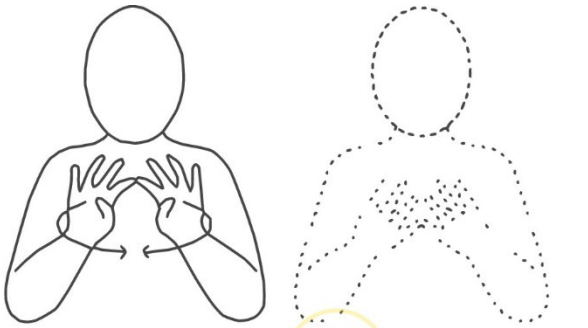
football

goal

to win



to lose



Hands move apart and round
to palms facing body

team

Here are The Singing Hands singing and signing about a football match:

https://youtu.be/olagKbbEt9k?si=fyn2aKGnUTVVoFgH

Keep signing!

Julie

Dates for your diary

Summer MOVE – 1st & 2nd July

Prom – Friday 3rd July

Whole School Transitions day – Tuesday 7th July

This Is Me – Friday 10th July

Leavers' Assembly - Tuesday 14th July

South American Dance Workshop – Tuesday 14th July

End of term for pupils – Friday 17th July

Start of term for pupils – Thursday 3rd September

And finally...it's 3 weeks away.....

The invitations

...from John & the Team here at PHS

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Our Key Drivers

Communication, Wellbeing, Independence