

Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News Friday 17th July 2026

As this reaches you, school is out for the summer. It does feel, with the successive heatwaves that we have already had summer.

I hope that, over the year you have found these weekly newsletters helpful. I always appreciate feedback, positive and negative.

July has been busy and lots of fun for students. The Metro pass was in high demand as a lot of classes headed to the Arena for the Beyond Van Gogh exhibition.

Normally I would be telling you what's coming up, but we all know it is the holidays.

We break up at 15.30 today, Friday 17th July. Staff will be training on Monday 20th July and 1st & 2nd September. School reopens to students on Thursday 3rd September.

I wish you all the very best for the holidays and best of luck to students departing for pastures new.



[Donate to GNR Team Robinson 2026 here](#)

School Calendars

[Term dates 2025-26](#)

[Term dates 2026-27](#)

[Events calendar 2025-26](#)

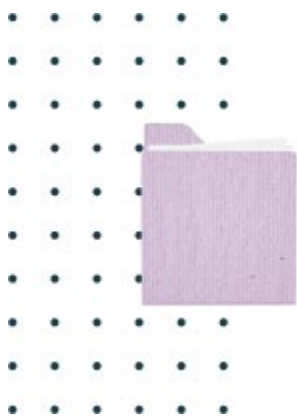


Online Safety Information:

The link to the Online safety information can be found on the school website under the heading "Parent and carers area", then "online safety" from the dropdown menu.

[View the online safety blogs here](#)

[And view all information about online safety at PHS here](#)



Free School Meals.

As I have previously informed parents, eligibility to a free school meal is changing on 1st September 2026. We have sent letters, texts and emails asking parents to verify eligibility via an external company. If you have not yet done so, here is the link again.

[Find the link here](#)



16-19 Student Bursary.

Those who have been granted a bursary this year remember having to provide evidence to me directly. The evidence required is the same as that for free school meals.

Some of our students cannot eat, so parents may be reluctant to complete the Free School Meal form. However, for those in Post 16, it could mean they do not receive a bursary. I have run 2 sessions for parents over the last couple of days about the bursary. If required, I can do another in September.

The amount of money we receive depends on the school census from 2 years ago. This year more students will be eligible, and funds are divided pro rata.

[If you'd like more information on the bursary here is the link to the government website:](#)



Activities

Children & Families North East:

For those eligible for Free School Meals

Still some places left. Contact Wendy on 0191 261 6027 to book


 Department
for Education



Summer Programme

FOR CHILDREN OVER 5 AND ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS.

Book with Wendy on 0191 261 6027

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am-4pm

SVP

Spaces are very limited, booking is essential.
Please inform the St Vincent's Team of any dietary requirements, allergies/intolerances when booking. Please note, due to restricted spaces, bookings **MUST** be made in person or by telephone - bookings via email will **NOT** be accepted.

Coach Trips are charged at **£15.00 per adult** (this includes coach travel and packed lunch, **one adult per family**, this is **non-refundable** and must be paid at the point of booking.

Coach Trips

(Children **MUST** be 5 and over, as we do **NOT** get funding for younger children)

	Pick up	Return
FRI 24 th July - Ridley Park	10.30am	4pm
MON 27 th July - Plessey Woods	10.30am	4pm
FRI 31 st July - South Shields Beach	10.30am	4pm
MON 3 rd Aug - Derwent Walk/Rowlands Gill Park	11am	3.30pm
FRI 7 th Aug - Wardwick Hall Park	10.30am	4pm
MON 10 th Aug - Finchale Abbey	10.30am	3.30pm
FRI 14 th Aug - Beamish Museum	9.15am	4pm
MON 17 th Aug - Seahouses	9.30am	4pm
FRI 21 st Aug - Morpeth Park	10.30am	3.30pm

Centre Events

MON 20th July - 1.30pm - Circus Workshop

FRI 28th Aug - 1.30pm - Bouncy Castle & Entertainer

St Vincent's Newcastle, Newbridge St, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 2TQ
 Charity Registration No: 1053992 Registered in England & Wales No: 3174679

NOVUM



Thanks to Andy, one of our teachers who shared this with me.

The NOVUM festival runs over 3 days in August.

NOVUM Festival is back this Summer with a three-day takeover from the 7th to 9th August, packed full of creativity, entertainment and unexpected moments across Newcastle city centre. These include performances, art trails and even giant dominos.

[NOVUM Festival Newcastle - 7-9 August](#)

Children and Families Newcastle East

Have a child aged 5 or over? Newcastle's Best Holiday Ever is a programme funded by the Department for Education for children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals or in need. It is designed for families in Newcastle during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holiday's to help children, young people and their parents have fulfilling, active, fun-filled and healthy experiences. There are loads of free activities happening all across Newcastle. Visit [their website here](#)



Unique Theatre

This is a new group who were here for the This is Me Festival. Please see links below for details on what they will offer as of September 2026.

Their classes will be held at John Spence Community High School, NE29 9PU

I have flyers available for anyone interested.

Unique
THEATRE
BELONG. CREATE. PERFORM.

*Be Creative.
Be You.
Be Unique.*

INCLUSIVE PERFORMING ARTS
for children, young people and adults of all abilities.

BELONG A welcoming community for everyone.

CREATE Explore your creativity and build confidence.

PERFORM Shine on stage in a supportive environment.

LAUNCHING SEPTEMBER 2026
The Drama Studio
John Spence Community High School
NE29 9PU

Why choose Unique?

- ✓ Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do
- ✓ Knowledgeable, SEND experienced staff
- ✓ Makaton-trained staff
- ✓ Inclusive, welcoming environment for all
- ✓ No pressure – participation at your own pace
- ✓ Confidence-building through creativity and performance
- ✓ Secure, safe and accessible venue

A place where
EVERYONE BELONGS

At **Unique Theatre**, we believe that **every person** deserves the opportunity to experience the joy of theatre and performance.

Our inclusive classes are designed for children, young people and adults of all abilities including those with SEND, disabilities, communication differences and additional support needs.

We provide a safe and supportive environment where everyone can **belong, create and perform.**

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY!

Unique Theatre unique.theatre
WWW.UNIQUE-THEATRE.CO.UK

Unique **TIMETABLE**

ACT 1
MONDAY - Under 16s

4:30PM - 5:15PM	OVERTURE	A sensory-based music, movement and performance class for children and young people who benefit from additional communication and sensory support.
5:30PM - 6:15PM	ACT 1 DANCE	An inclusive dance class for under 16s, developing confidence, coordination and creativity through movement.
6:30PM - 7:15PM	ACT 1 DRAMA	An inclusive drama class for under 16s, encouraging imagination, communication and self-expression through theatre.
7:30PM - 8:15pm	ACT 1 MUSIC	An inclusive music class for under 16s, exploring singing, rhythm and musical creativity in a fun, supportive environment.

BELONG. CREATE. PERFORM.

Unique **TIMETABLE**

ACT 2
TUESDAY - Over 16s

4:30PM - 5:15PM	CURTAIN UP	An inclusive performing arts class for adults who benefit from additional communication and sensory support, designed to encourage confidence, creativity and meaningful participation through music, movement and performance.
5:30PM - 6:15PM	ACT 2 DANCE	An inclusive dance class for over 16s, focusing on developing dance technique, musicality and performance skills in a supportive environment.
6:30PM - 7:15PM	ACT 2 DRAMA	An inclusive drama class for over 16s, exploring acting techniques, character development and performance while building confidence on stage.
7:30PM - 8:15pm	ACT 2 MUSIC	An inclusive music class for over 16s, developing vocal technique, musicianship and performance skills through singing and creative music-making.

BELONG. CREATE. PERFORM.

Screen on the Green.

This has become an annual part of the summer holidays. The area around Old Eldon Square is transformed into a free outdoor cinema.

[The full programme is now available here](#)



The Foundation are even hosting their own Screen on the Green!

 **Percy Hedley**
FOUNDATION

Percy Hedley Screen on the Green

Thursday 30th July 2026, 10am for a 10:30am Start

Old Eldon Square, NE1 7JG

In partnership with NE1, we're delighted to host our very own Percy Hedley Cinema Experience. Join us for a **FREE** outdoor movie event, exclusively for the Percy Hedley Foundation community.

We'll be watching **The Greatest Showman Sing-Along**, so get ready to sing your heart out, join in with your favourite songs and enjoy a fantastic morning!

There will also be an opportunity to support our Communications Team by helping to host a pop-up stall and engage with members of the public. If anyone we support would like to get involved with this, please get in touch with ava.hartington@percyhedley.org.uk

Join us on Thursday 30th July to watch **The Greatest Showman Sing-Along**.

See the poster for more details.

Inflatable 5K



Join the Foundation in a fun Inflatable 5K at Newcastle Racecourse 22nd August!

[Sign up here](#)



We have had, I think a very successful year. We have dipped into reserved funds due to an increase in requests for things we felt would make a difference.

Next year should see the return of the summer fayre which families enjoy.

FoPHS winners should receive their winnings via BACS direct from finance. We hope to increase uptake next year. Although we raised £282, had we managed to fill 100 numbers this would equate to £600 for FoPHS and each winning number would receive £50.

[See all information on what we raised and what we funded this year here](#)

Great North Run 2026

My husband Richard, daughter Aisling and soon to be son in law Brandon are taking on the GNR to raise funds for FoPHS. My son Niall, a former PHS student whom many of you remember and I will be supporting the fundraising team at South Shields on the day as we have done for as long as I can remember.

Together we are Team Robinson.

This year FoPHS has spent a lot of our reserved funds supporting school: MOVE event resources, Christmas and Easter gifts, Music wall extension, benches and wheelchair accessible table for the playground, Metro and National Trust passes, the Bubble-ologist, Unique Theatre sessions and decorations for the This is Me Festival. This, at a cost of over £5000 well exceeded our income and the committee wants to continue providing the same level of support.

We would greatly appreciate your support of TEAM Robinson at the GNR to Motivate them (Aisling and Brandon get married on 31st July, so can't see much training happening there)

[Help us raise as much as we can for FoPHS via our JustGiving page here](#)



Facebook page:



This is a closed group for family and friends of Percy Hedley School, where you can share news and updates about school life. It is not for external professionals who may be working with families. To join, you need to answer the question stating your link with school.

Please note: this group is for sharing news and updates about school life and is not intended to discuss any issues around individual students, and as such all comments are moderated. If you have a particular issue or concern, please contact school directly on 0191 216 1811. [Join here](#)



Quote of the Week

Ending the academic year with a summer themed message:

Hello Summer,
Some of the finest moments are
Unscripted. Some of the sweetest
Memories are found in the
Most unexpected corners.
Embrace the mystery, as that's where
Real happiness resides

Our Mindful Life



Contact details

Eileen Robinson: Family Liaison Officer

Email: e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 2161811 ext. 3260.