

Percy Hedley School's

Whole School Blog

News, Stars, Russell Digs It, Online Safety & This Is Me! - from John & the PHS Team

Friday 10th July

Hi everyone,

And goodness me, all of a sudden, we're in July and all sorts of things are happening! I hope you're all well. We're good. Following the Prom on Friday when it was so nice to see so many of you – thanks for coming – we've had a Transition Day on Tuesday when people visited new classes and prepared for next term. I hope you found that useful for your son or daughter here and that they are OK about it – part of the point of it is to reduce anxieties and make people feel better. And today is This Is Me, our mini-festival too! Check out Julie's Makaton on it as well!

It's a great blog too, with pupils doing an archaeological dig, online safety information, pictures from MOVE, good sport - and as always some great STARS!!! And look out for photos of the Prom on the website too!

Otherwise, maybe we'll see you at the Leavers' Assembly on Tuesday, but in any case have a lovely weekend, thanks for your support, and all the best

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

"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 Student Council are making a difference to the school!

Two new benches are out on the yard now, after the School Council had asked for them. The Council worked with the Maintenance Team to find the best place to put them. The students around school have enjoyed using them at social times. We want more!

We had the Father's Day Sale which raised more money for school to spend on things the students want

We also were involved in some interviews for new members of staff

It's great to have such a good School Council, that are actually making a difference with these kinds of things. It really fits in with our ethos and the vibe of the school too. Thanks to them!



Our School Council Board!



Literacy

Becky, our Literacy Specialist Lead, leads a team that improve all aspects of literacy, including writing, oracy, reading, phonics, books & the library! Let's catch up with what the latest happenings are!



THE YEAR OF READING!



Last week, pupils school came together to celebrate our Summer Booknic as part of our 'Go All In for Reading' celebrations for the National Year of Reading. The afternoon encouraged everyone to slow down and enjoy a good story in a relaxed and enjoyable way. With the sun shining, we took our books, blankets, beanbags and picnic treats outside to fill the school grounds into cosy reading spaces.



It was lovely to see pupils engaging with books in so many different ways. Some enjoyed listening to stories read aloud, others chose to enjoy some quiet reading, while many shared stories and chatted about characters, pictures and favourite parts together. The atmosphere was peaceful and full of enjoyment. The highlight of the day was seeing reading celebrated simply for pleasure.

A huge thank you to all the staff who helped make the afternoon such a success. It was fantastic to see so many pupils enjoying books in such a positive and fun setting. We hope the Summer Booknic has inspired our pupils to continue exploring stories throughout the summer and to discover even more books they love. After all, sometimes the very best adventures can be found between the pages of a book.



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. Here's Ash again!

MOVE INTO SPACE!



Last week our amazing MOVE students took part in the national "MOVE into Space" day - and what an out-of-this-world adventure it was!



From sensory stories and fine & gross motor activities to colourful T-shirt painting, before zooming into a giant alien-themed relay race, our students were over the moon with excitement



We think it's safe to say everyone had a galaxy of fun and the day was truly out of this world!!!



Keep your eyes on the stars...



...and now you can see just how space-tacular the day really was!



Our amazing MOVE Team have done it again and produced something truly awesome!



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. Let's hear what's going on...

National School Diversity Week - This Is Me Festival

Last week was National School Diversity Week, and our students have been really excited planning this year's "*This Is Me*" mini festival, taking place today!

The day celebrates individuality & diversity across our school, recognising the protected characteristics and promoting equality, respect and understanding. It also links closely to our PSHE and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural) curriculum, as well as our work around British Values

There is a wide range of fun and inclusive activities available throughout the day, including

Music and karaoke

Photo booth station
African drumming workshop
Unique Theatre drama workshop
Bubble performer
Accessible outdoor games
Singing and signing

We also have a “*Shopping Village*”, where our school enterprise groups will be selling food, drinks and merchandise for students to enjoy

We’ll start the day with our “*This Is Me*” march, and we would love students to come dressed in whatever makes them feel fabulous—festival outfits, fancy dress, pyjamas, or even full couture!

The event will also raise money for a local charity linked to supporting diversity and inclusion, which will be chosen by our students. Tickets can be exchanged for a wristband on the day. Students may also wish to bring a small amount of spending money for the Shopping Village

We’re delighted to welcome a group of students from Benton Dene School, who will be joining us as part of our local inclusion project

This special day is a great opportunity for our students to celebrate who they are, develop independence and money-handling skills, and experience the joy of a festival in a safe and supportive environment

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at j.ferguson@percyhedley.org.uk, or speak to your child’s class teacher



PE

PE is great here and very important for a lot of the students – in fact all sorts of movement

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Sports Day Success for ELTBA & Accreditation

Our ELBA and Accreditation students enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day filled with teamwork, determination & plenty of fun! They wore their team colours with pride as they represented their team throughout the day's activities, in an atmosphere of encouragement, friendly competition & excellent sportsmanship



This year's theme was Aliens, adding an element of excitement & creativity to the event. Students took part in a range of engaging activities, supporting & celebrating each other's achievements along the way



As part of the day, some students also chose to carry out research into the wider benefits of participating in sport & physical activity. They explored how sport can positively influence personal development by building valuable life skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, resilience & leadership. Students also discussed how working towards a shared goal, supporting others & overcoming challenges together are all transferable skills that can help them in everyday life, education & future employment



Days like these remind us that success isn't measured by who crosses the finish line first, but by the courage to take part, the friendships built along the way, and the confidence gained from believing in yourself. Every smile, every cheer and every achievement made today is a step towards a brighter, more independent future. We couldn't be prouder of every single student



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! Let's hear from Kate!

It's been another very sunny and warm week in class, and we have continued our learning around our Under the Sea theme. The children have enjoyed exploring a range of sea-themed activities.

One particular favourite was our blue Jelly Baff sensory tray! The children had fun searching for different sea creatures hidden in the Jelly Baff and using pegs to rescue treasure for our treasure chest. We have also been using pegs to pinch and catch crabs, helping to develop our fine motor skills.

In our creative activities, we explored bubble painting to create jellyfish artwork. There was lots of excitement as we experimented with colours and bubbles. At one point, somebody may have accidentally squirted the syringe a little too enthusiastically, resulting in some orange, soapy paint ending up on the ceiling, oops!

In ELS, we have been learning about the letter 'f'. The children have enjoyed our "What's in the Box?" activity, adding actions to each object beginning with the sound. We stretched our long necks like a flamingo and pulled some silly fish faces. We then practised forming the letter 'f' in flour trays. In maths, we have continued to practise our counting skills and have been working hard to match numerals to quantities.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine!





The Fabulous Ducklings, with Kate & the Team



Russell's Dig – he can dig it!!!!!!

There's usually something very interesting happening in Russell's class – I wonder what they've been up to this week....

At the beginning of last month, our wonderful new History timeline in the school hall was featured. We also mentioned that there would be more news upcoming that would relate to Anglo-Saxon Britain and here it is ...

Percy Hedley has established links with the ongoing archaeological work at Jarrow Hall, the Anglo-Saxon site, formerly known as Bede's World. Last Friday, the first of

our visits took place and pupils were able to assist the excavation of an upper Victorian layer and wash the resultant finds.

We found medicine bottles, beads, pieces of crockery, brick, glass and metal, carefully placing everything in labelled finds trays ahead of the cleaning tasks.

Everyone worked hard, asked questions, made pertinent comments and had so much fun that repeated reminders had to be given to stop for breaks!





Can you dig it, Kayden, oh yeah!



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 – I think they need some info back from you guys!

We are working really hard throughout the school to ensure we can meet the needs of each student and remain up to date with their care. As such we ask that you please fill out the SHED form that has been sent out so we can ensure we are working with the most up to date information to support you and your child

Thanks!



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 from Aylisha

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

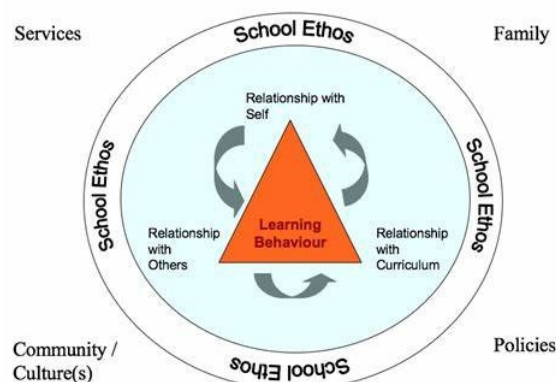


Figure 1: Behaviour for Learning conceptual framework



Preparation for Adulthood with Hannah

PfA is a priority for the us and always will be. Let's hear below what Hannah & the PfA Team have been working on



Staying Healthy and Safe in Hot Weather: A Summer Guide for Families

As the warmer weather arrives, many of our children and young people look forward to spending more time outdoors, enjoying sensory experiences, playing with friends, and taking part in family activities. However, hot weather can bring additional challenges, particularly for our children and young people. Every child is different, but there are many simple ways we can encourage them to be healthy, comfortable and safe during the hotter months.

Keeping Cool and Hydrated - Top tips!

Offer drinks regularly throughout the day rather than waiting for your child to ask.

Use favourite cups, bottles, straws or specialist drinking equipment where needed.

Try adding flavour with slices of fruit if your child enjoys this, and if safe to do so.

Include water-rich foods such as watermelon, cucumber, strawberries and oranges – great for exploring new tastes and textures, and refreshing too!

Look for signs of dehydration such as tiredness, headaches, irritability, darker urine or dry lips.

Where appropriate, encourage children and young people to:

Fill their own water bottle with support if needed.

Use visual reminders, timers or symbols to prompt regular drinking.

Keep track of their own hydration goals.

Choose and prepare healthy drinks independently.

Sun Safety for Everyone – Top Tips!

Sunburn can happen quickly, even when it does not feel extremely hot. Even the cloudiest of days can catch us out, and put our young people at risk of burning.

Remember the key steps:

Apply a high factor sunscreen before going outside and reapply regularly.

Wear hats with wide brims or neck protection where appropriate.

Choose lightweight, loose-fitting clothing.

Seek shade during the hottest parts of the day.

Use sunglasses if tolerated and recommended.

For pupils with sensory needs, sunscreen textures and clothing choices can sometimes be challenging. It may help to:

Trial different sunscreen brands.

Use visual schedules before applying sunscreen.

Practise wearing hats for short periods and gradually increase tolerance.

Allow children some choice in the style or colour of sun-safe clothing.

Children can learn to:

Recognise the "sun safety routine."

Apply sunscreen to accessible areas with supervision.

Check they have their hat, sunglasses and water bottle before leaving home.

Follow visual checklists independently.

Coping with the Heat – Top tips!

Hot weather can affect children and young people in different ways. Some may become tired more quickly, or struggle to regulate body temperature.

Top tips!

Plan activities during cooler parts of the day.

Check wheelchairs, seating and equipment for hot surfaces.

Ensure pressure relief routines continue during summer outings.

Monitor for signs of overheating such as flushed skin, excessive sweating or unusual fatigue.

Encourage young people to:

Recognise how their body feels when it becomes too hot.

Request rest breaks when needed.

Use communication aids to express discomfort.

Take increasing responsibility for managing personal cooling strategies where appropriate.

Staying regulated in the heat – Top Tips!

Changes to routines during summer holidays can be difficult for everyone! Staying cool, calm and collected can be really tricky!

Strategies that may help:

Use visual timetables to show summer activities.

Maintain predictable routines where possible.

Prepare children in advance for trips and outings.

Use now-and-next boards or social stories.

Build regular quiet breaks into busy days.

Children may be able to:

Follow visual reminders to drink water.

Pack their own essentials with support.

Make simple choices about clothing and activities.

Learn basic safety rules through repetition and modelling.

Summer independence – Top tips!

For our older students and young adults, summer provides valuable opportunities to practise real-life skills.

These might include:

Planning activities safely in hot weather.

Checking weather forecasts.

Packing a bag for a day out.

Managing hydration independently.

Following personal care routines.

Using money safely to purchase drinks or snacks.

Making informed choices about sun protection.

These experiences help build confidence, resilience and independence that will support young people throughout their lives.

Stay Cool!

Every child and young person develops independence at their own pace. Small steps can make a big difference. Whether it is choosing a hat, filling a water bottle, applying sunscreen, communicating a need for a break, or planning a day out, each success helps build confidence and self-esteem.

This summer, let's focus on keeping our children safe, healthy and happy while giving them opportunities to develop the skills that will help them become as independent as possible.

We hope you enjoy a wonderful, safe and sunny summer together

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!

Well Done!

It has been a very busy time over the past weeks for students to sit exams in different subjects. Every exam sat meant a "yes I did it" on the individual exams schedule

You can be very proud of yourself for working through it!

Preparations for Results Day and the completion of the Qualification Cycle is under way eg claiming full qualifications for certification and completing the Functional Skills Entry Level external moderation process

Results will be available for most qualifications on Results Day 20th August 2026.

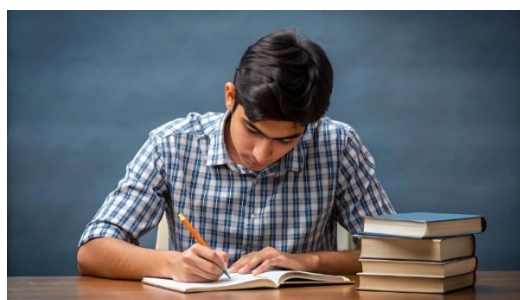
Some of the Functional Skills Results might come in earlier and will be communicated by staff

Kind Reminder: **Please return the Results Consent Forms** that were sent home with students asap to enable communication on Results Day with the student and/or guardian. Thank you very much

Once again, well done and thank you to everyone involved who prepared and helped students through the exam process

Enjoy the exciting weeks left at Percy Hedley School before the summer holidays – lots of fun stuff is planned!

Best wishes



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

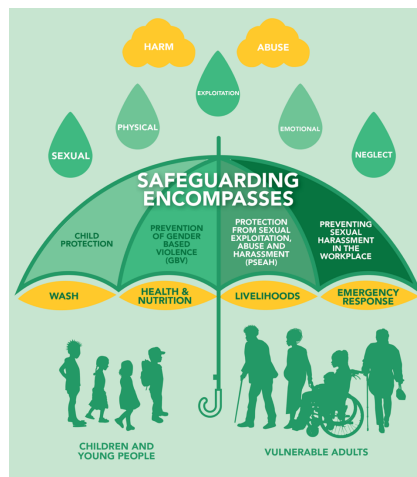


Safeguarding – look at the Online Safety blog!



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. Let's hear what Aylisha wants to draw our attention to this week

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

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. Lizzie has been looking at AI-generated images this week

Here is the online safety blog that has gone up this week- [Online Safety blogs - Percy Hedley School](#)

It's based on new guidance produced from the NCA CEOP team around AI generated child abuse images. Not the most pleasant of topics but very important for parents to be aware of!

Do switch over and read that one – only when youre in the mood to be honest – on our site too.....

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!



Attendance Matters



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

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. Here's Eileen, and if you want more like this, switch over to Eileen's blog on our site

We held our first meeting since the AGM on Wednesday. We had a good discussion on the activities and support FoPHS continues to provide. We will do a Newsletter to highlight our activity

The remaining 6 draws for the 100 club were done, and the winners are:

- 38. Ros Holden
- 10. Amanda Dobson
- 8. Roxanne Bassam
- 43. Jackie Byren
- 20. Neil Walker
- 26. John Suggate

I will contact those for whom I don't have bank details to arrange BACS transfer. Each winner will receive £23.50. Thanks to everyone who supported the 100 club which raised £282 for FoPHS

We were pleased to welcome Fran Clark-Jewitt from fundraising who will support us going forward.

We agreed to hold a combined social coffee morning/FoPHS meet the team in September to encourage more families to join us.

We also plan to update the information on the website.

Thanks to everyone who supported us this year, donations, volunteers, 100 club and so much more

GNR Team Robinson 2026

Although Niall left PHS in 2017 we, his family continue to support school via the GNR. We need the support of the school community to help us reach the target set of £750 by our fundraising team. As Niall and I have supported them at the charity village for many years I know that the costs to us of being there are high.

Please consider a small (we won't refuse a large one either) donation to their just giving page. The funds raised will directly benefit ALL students via the FoPHS.

Thanks for reading and here is the link to their page:

[Donate here](#)

A few photos from last year. If you are doing the GNR Niall and I would be delighted to see you at the PHF tent where we will be supporting. Niall remains the

best spotter of PHF runners yet. He also loves meeting staff and anyone associated with Percy Hedley



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



Masie!

Teamwork!

This week's star of the Pathway is Masie!

For demonstrating her teamwork and social skills by being so welcoming to our visitor to class this week. Masie was giving lots of smiles and making them feel part of our class. Well done, Masie, STAR!!!

Masie the STAR!!!



ELTBA

Rosie and Isaac!

Teamwork & Respect!

Our ELTBA Stars of the Week are Rosie and Isaac in 3LL/RM for great teamwork and respect working together to evaluate their stem lessons.

DOUBLE STARS!!! Well done both!





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!!!

Resilience and Respect

Andrew had a fantastic transition day at Espa. He was confident and polite. He has even appointed another Able Assistant for his tyre business. Amazing!!!

Phillip has had a great week. He always had a positive cheery attitude and is very adaptable. Wonderful!!!

Resilience

James has worked really well this week. Excellent!!!

Ahmed was so independent in cookery. He baked some amazing cookies and tidied up really well. Fantastic!!!

Respect

Charlie has been very helpful and kind towards a peer. Lovely to hear, very well done!!! 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 6th July

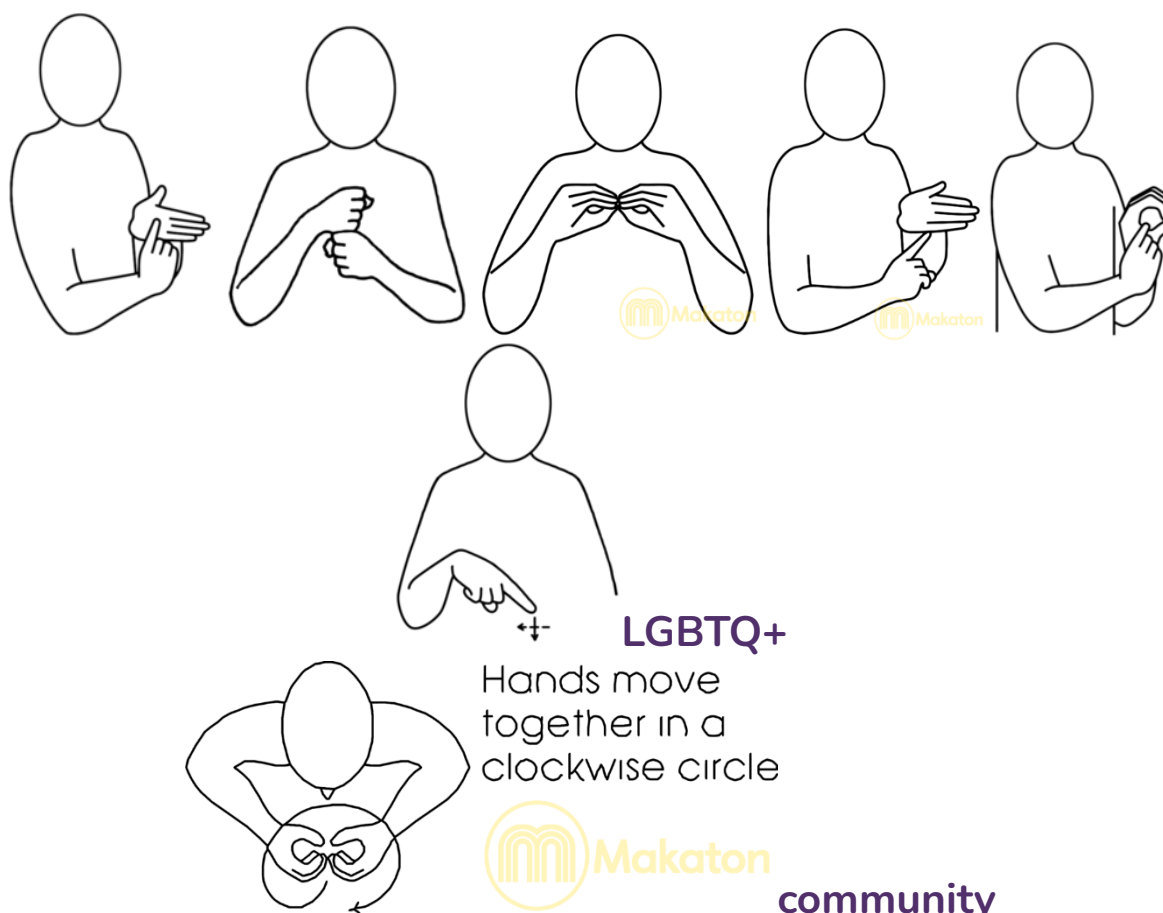
This is Me Festival

We are celebrating our annual 'This is Me' festival on Friday 10th July

LGBTQ+, rainbow, flag, this is me, love, kind, family, friends

[Here is my video:](#)

[Here are Singing Hands performing This is Me:](#)

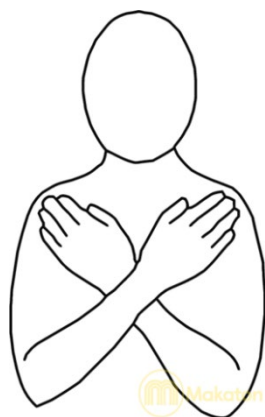




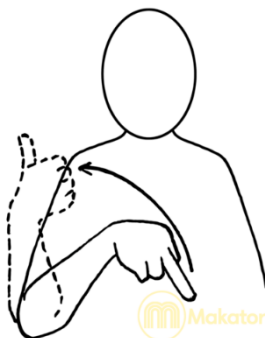
rainbow



flag



love



kind



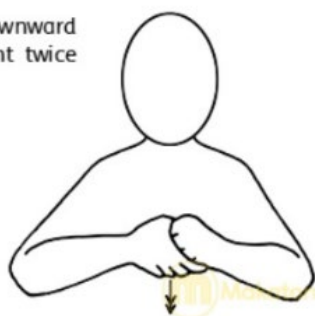
me

Finger spell 'F',
circles clockwise
in front of body



family

Small downward
movement twice



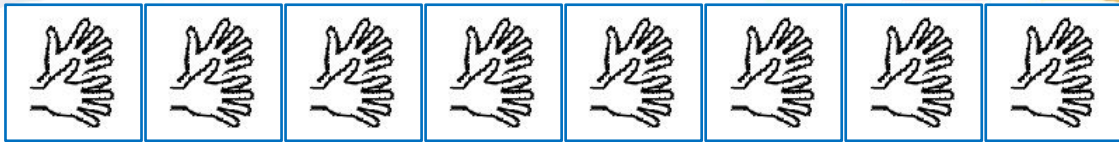
friend

Have a very happy 'This is Me' festival on Friday!



Keep signing!

Julie



Dates for your diary

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...

COME ON ENGLAND!



Yeah, Stonehenge – why not?

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

Our Key Drivers

Communication, Wellbeing, Independence