

Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News 11th September 2026

Between a bank holiday and 2 training days, week one flew past. Students generally appear to be settling back, and it feels like we have never been away.

Just a reminder that I can offer support on non-class related issues by telephone, TEAMS, email or, by prior arrangement in person. If there is anything you feel I could help with, please complete the following short form and I will contact you:

[Complete the form here](#)

What's coming up?

Thursday 17th September: The normal school lunch menu will be replaced by a Mexican themed one.

Wednesday 23rd September 9.30-11: Social coffee morning and introduction to FoPHS. You may arrive/depart at any time and stay for as long as you wish.



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

School Calendars

[Term dates 2026-27](#)

[Events calendar 2026-2027](#)



Free School Meals:

As you will be aware changes effective 1 September 2026 mean any child from a family in receipt of Universal Credit is eligible for a free school meal. Children in Early years, up to and including year 2 all receive a free school meal regardless of income. In addition, at PHS we have students who are on blended diets who are also exempt. Eligibility for free school meals is carried out by an external agency, and the link has been shared several times as we want to ensure that those eligible receive their meals. For those who are on Universal Credit and a low-income school receives additional funding for those in Primary and Secondary classes but not Post 16. I'll include a link to Pupil Premium so that you know how this helps school.

If you think your child may be eligible and you have NOT yet completed an application, today is the final date to apply.

[Here is the link:](#)

[Here is some information on Pupil Premium:](#)

[Here is a link to how it was used at PHS:](#)

16-19 Student Bursary:

Just a reminder that if your child is eligible for a free school meal and you have applied your child will be eligible for the Discretionary Student Bursary. This has not been received by school. Last year, it was late in the autumn term, with funds available from January. You will be advised when there is an update. No further evidence will be required if you have completed the free school meal application.

Those not in receipt of free school meals may still be eligible if the household income is less than £40,000. Once we start sending forms out, I will ask for evidence in support of your application.

There is also a Vulnerable Student Bursary which is available to students in or recently left Local Authority care and for students who are claiming BOTH Universal Credit AND PIP in their own name. Contact me if your child fits this category and I am not aware of it.

[Want to know more about the student bursary? Click here](#)

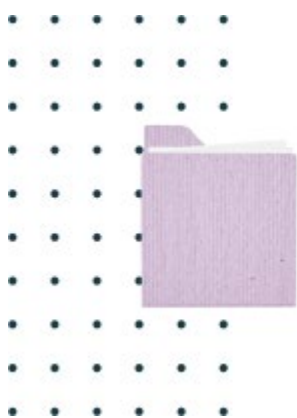


Online Safety Information:

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](#)



I thought I would start the year with some generic information, signposting you to the place which SHOULD have all the links you need to support your child, young person and family. It will contain individual Local Authority processes, criteria and what you can expect as well as what is available in your area. So, if you are looking for activities suitable for your child, or you want to know how to apply for a Personal Budget this is the place to start looking.

SEND Local Offer.

What is the Local Offer?

Every local authority in the UK is required by law to provide a Local Offer. If you live in the local area, you can explore yours by entering the name of your Local Authority and SEND Local Offer

What the Local Offer Includes

Education and Schooling: *"Early Years and Childcare", "Education and schools"* details, from nurseries up to further education and university support.

Health and Social Care: *"Health services"* and *"Social care"* provisions available through the council, NHS, and local partners.

Activities and Leisure: *"Leisure"* activities, clubs, and support groups tailored for children and young people with additional needs.

Preparing for Adulthood: *"Preparing for adulthood"* advice, employment pathways, and independent living support.

Transport and Travel: *"Transport"* information and travel assistance options.

Who It Is For

Parents and Carers: To find out what help is available locally and how to access it.

Children and Young People: To see choices and activities that help them feel included.

Professionals: As a single reference point for practitioners supporting families.

Here are the links to the 12 North East Local Authority ones:

[North Tyneside:](#)

[Newcastle:](#)

[Gateshead:](#)

[Northumberland:](#)

[South Tyneside:](#)

[Durham:](#)

[Darlington:](#)

[Middlesbrough:](#)

[Hartlepool:](#)

[Stockton:](#)

[Sunderland:](#)

[Redcar and Cleveland:](#)



In this section I share information on a range of activities. Some are generic, signposting you to local providers whilst others are seasonal or one-off events. I will be sharing information on Halloween and Christmas events as I see them.

Often these book out quickly so, if they are of interest get booking.

I appreciate information from staff, parents and carers too, so if you know something please share with me.

Ouseburn Farm Charity Ltd

We're having a Harvest Festival birthday party and you're invited! 🎉

It's going to be all the fun of a countryside farm show in the city.

 Saturday 19th September, 10am - 5pm

Event programme:

 10am-4pm: Crafts & Farmyard Games. Drop-in any time between 10am and 4pm to make a farm animal party hat or play a farmyard game!

 10am-11.30am: Drop off your homemade items, impressive vegetables and veg patch creatures to be judged!

 11am - 2pm: Get a photo in our special farm-themed photobooth.

 11.30am-12pm: Kids Fell race. Don your animal party hat and run! The route is approx 1 mile and suitable for age 5+ but all kids should be accompanied by a grown up.

 11.30am: Our expert local judges will assess all the competition entries.

 12pm: Prize ceremony and community feast. See if you've won a prize and try some of the delicious community bakes.

 2pm: Live Country music from the Byker Hillbillies, locally brewed @twobytwobrewing beers and fresh farm produce to try.

 3.30pm: Place your bets on the flock, then watch as we race the sheep!

Our competitions are:

 Creature from the veg patch: Can your child make a creature - real or imaginary, from vegetables? See our Pinterest board for inspiration!

 Most impressive vegetable: A giant courgette, a beautiful carrot, a very leafy cabbage - impress us!

 Tastiest conserve: Jams, chutneys, marmalades - we want to taste them all!

 Sweet baked good: This could be a classic Victoria sponge, a cupcake, a jam tart... let GBBO inspire you.

 Savoury baked good: Pasty, pie, sausage roll - you decide!

To enter into the competitions or the fell race please visit <https://www.ouseburnfarm.org.uk/whatson> or the link in our bio.

We're really looking forward to celebrating our birthday with you and can't wait to see what you bring us!

HARVEST FESTIVAL BIRTHDAY PARTY



Sat 19th September 10am - 5pm

All the fun of a countryside farm show in the city

10AM - 11.30AM: DROP OFF COMPETITION ENTRIES

Drop off your homemade items, impressive vegetables and veg patch creatures to be judged!



10AM - 4PM: CRAFTS AND FARMYARD GAMES

Drop-in any time between 10am and 4pm to make a farm animal party hat or play a game!

HARVEST FESTIVAL BIRTHDAY PARTY



11.30AM - 12PM: KIDS FELL RACE

Don your party hat and run! The route is approx 1 mile, suitable for age 5+ but all kids should be accompanied by an adult



11.30AM - 12PM: COMPETITION JUDGING BEGINS

Our expert local judges will assess all the competition entries

12PM: PRIZE CEREMONY, COMMUNITY FEAST & BAR OPENS

See if you've won a prize and try some of the delicious community bakes



HARVEST FESTIVAL BIRTHDAY PARTY



2PM: LIVE MUSIC, DRINKS, FOOD

Folk and bluegrass music from the Byker Hillbillies, locally brewed Two by Two beer and fresh farm produce to try.

3.30PM: SHEEP RACE

Place your bets on the flock, then watch as we race the sheep!



HARVEST FESTIVAL COMPETITION CATEGORIES



Creature from the veg patch

Kids can make a creature from vegetables - see our Pinterest board for inspiration



Most impressive vegetable

A giant pumpkin, a very leafy cabbage - impress us!



Tastiest conserve

Jams, chutneys, marmalades - we want to taste them all!

Sweet baked good

A classic Victoria sponge, a cupcake, jam tart... let GBBO inspire you



Savoury baked good

Pasty, pie, sausage roll - you decide!



To enter, head to www.ouseburnfarm.org.uk/whatson

Please provide a list of main ingredients when you submit your entry on the day.

Tim Lamb Centre

The Tim Lamb Centre, located in the Rising Sun Country Park has a wide-ranging offer. Access is by membership only, costing £20 per family for a year. Additional costs of £4 per child per visit. They also have special events which are well advertised.

There is an accessible outdoor play area and within the centre gaming room, sensory room, trampoline room, a cafe and more.

[Visit their website here:](#)

[Membership information:](#)

[Facebook page:](#)

Here is the information on Christmas events.

🌲 2026 WILL BE OUR BIGGEST CHRISTMAS EVER! 🌲 Tickets go on sale 22nd September.

We've listened carefully to all your feedback, and this year we're making some exciting changes to our Christmas celebrations.

We've scaled down our larger parties so we can offer as many quieter, more relaxed Meet & Greet with Santa as possible. We know that for many of our children, a quieter environment makes Christmas much more enjoyable.

But we also understand that every child is different — so for those who love a little more fun and excitement, we'll also be offering a quiet and cheeky foam party!

And because we know how popular our Christmas sessions are, we've added more dates than ever before! 🍪

Our team are going to need plenty of beauty sleep to get through them all! 😂

🍪 WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR CHRISTMAS TICKET?

🍪 A special Meet & Greet with Santa

🎁 A gift from Santa for every child

🌲 Centre admission

🎮 Full access to our Stay & Play facilities

There's no need to rush off after seeing Santa. Children are welcome to enjoy Stay & Play throughout the centre, with their visit planned around their allocated Santa time.

☀️ ADDITIONAL DAYTIME MEET & GREETs

We'll also be offering special daytime Meet & Greet sessions for home-educated children, schools and pre-school children on:

8th, 9th & 10th December

These dates will be released for booking later in the year.

📅 CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS

Our advertised Christmas dates will go on sale:

📅 Tuesday 22nd September

🕒 10.30am

📍 Online and at the Tim Lamb Centre

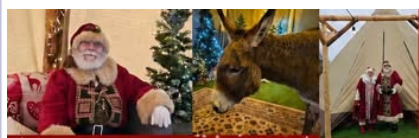
A valid membership is essential to book. Please check your child's membership expiry date now to make sure it is still valid when bookings open.

Please note tickets can only be booked per household. We are unable to accept bookings on others behalf or group bookings.

1 event per membership.

We can't wait to make Christmas 2026 our biggest and most inclusive Christmas yet!





Pathways4All

QUIET CHRISTMAS PARTY

MONDAY 7TH DEC 4-6.30PM

Party includes;

- Elf visit with party games and storytime
- Reindeer dust Station
- Face Painting

Say hello to our donkeys and alpacas
A magical visit to our winter wonderland
Meeting Mr & Mrs Claus with a gift

£6 per ticket (a valid membership is required)



MEET SANTA CLAUS

A VERY QUIET MEETING IN OUR WINTER WONDERLAND. DECORATE A XMAS COOKIE WITH OUR ELVES BEFORE MEETING OUR SPECIAL VISITOR SANTA CLAUS.

TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 4-6.30PM.

£6 PER TICKET. A VALID MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED.

Pathways4All



A MAGICAL QUIET MEET & GREET WITH MR & MRS CLAUS IN OUR BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS TIPA.

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 10-4PM.

£6 PER CHILD

A VALID MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

Pathways4All



DON'T WORRY IF YOU ARE ON THE NAUGHTY LIST, THE GRINCH IS INVITED TOO!

SANTA VS THE GRINCH DANCE OFF

CHRISTMAS SNOW PARTY

THURSDAY 10TH DEC

TIM LAMB CHILDREN'S CENTRE

4.30-6.30PM £6 per ticket

North East Family Fun

I often share activities from this group. As the weather is still warm enough I thought it might give you some inspiration for this weekend.

[Visit their Facebook page here:](#)

What's On in the North East this Weekend - 12 & 13 September

☀️ 12 & 13 September - North of Tyne ☀️

12 Sept - FREE Entry to Seaton Delaval Hall

12 Sept - (ad) FREE Entry to Woodhorn

12 Sept - Art Class of 10-15 year olds at Laing Art Gallery

12 Sept - Othello at Northern Stage

12 Sept - FREE Lino Printing at The Farrell Centre

12 Sept - Junior Great North Run

12 & 13 Sept - (ad) FREE Squishy Fest at Manor Walks Cramlington with bubbles, squishy games, squishy prizes, squishy parade, squishy disco and more

12 & 13 Sept - FREE Peter Rabbit Tales on the Tyne Trail (last chance)

12 & 13 Sept - (ad) 30% off ALL tickets at Whitehouse Farm this weekend
(discount automatically applied at checkout)

12 & 13 Sept - (ad) Spritember at Lilidorei with bubbleplay, storytime & gentle games

12 & 13 Sept - (ad) The Great Dinosaur Escape at Science at Life

12 & 13 Sept - FREE Hadrian's Wall Art Trail ~

13 Sept - FREE Entry to Wallington

13 Sept - Great North Run Day

13 Sept - Heritage Train Rides at Stephenson Railway

☀️ 12 & 13 September - South of Tyne ☀️

12 Sept - (ad) LAST CHANCE - The Storied Lands & Kynren

12 Sept - FREE Mediatation Session at South Shields Museum

12 Sept - FREE Mythical Object Crafting at South Shields Museum

12 Sept - Saturday Art Club at Washington Arts Centre (8+)

12 Sept - FREE Make a Shofar Instrument and Celebrate Jewish New Year at
Oriental Museum Durham

12 Sept - Lord of the Dance at Sunderland Empire

12 Sept - FREE Quiet Colouring Club at BALTIC

12 & 13 Sept - (ad) Atchin-Tan and Celebration of Gypsy Roma Traveller History
Weekend at Beamish

12 & 13 Sept - FREE Entry to Ormesby Hall

12 & 13 Sept - FREE Entry to Gibside

12 & 13 Sept - Dog Man: The Musical at Darlington Hippodrome

12 & 13 Sept - FREE Entry to Bowes Museum

13 Sept - FREE Artist Led Workshops and FREE Board Game Sundays with FREE
Refreshments at BALTIC

As always, this post has been scheduled in advance and events can change. Please
check details with venues direct before heading out.

[You can find out more about these events + discover more things to do here:](#)





We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 23rd September between 9.30 - 11.00. Our first social coffee morning of the academic year doubles as an introduction to FoPHS. We want to reach out to as many families as possible.

For those new to school I thought I would give you an overview. FoPHS launched as a Parent Teacher Association in 2013 and a few years ago we decided to change to a Friends of Percy Hedley School. This allows us to reach beyond parents, carers and staff.

What do we do? We work with parents/carers to enhance the school experience for all students. We have funded over the years:

- Equipment for the Outdoor Learning Area and Pod
- Christmas gifts; selection boxes or sensory alternatives
- Easter gifts; Easter Eggs or sensory alternatives
- MOVE (Movement Opportunities via Education) have 3 fun/therapy events each year and we fund the resources
- National Trust Educational pass, enabling classes to visit their properties
- School Metro pass, enables classes who can access the Metro to go on school trips
- School experiences; we have funded visits into school of providers of workshops for the annual This is Me Festival
- Outdoor furniture including picnic benches for staff/visitors outside reception and benches and a wheelchair accessible picnic bench for the play area

We love the difference our support makes and know that parents, carers and staff value what we do.

[You can find out more by visiting the FoPHS section of the school website here:](#)

We consider parent views and suggestions. There are some things which are a challenge due to the nature of the school. Where mainstream schools offer events after school or in the evening, most of our students are transported using home to school transport. Many of our students have care needs meaning parents are not available in the evenings. We have offered afternoon and evening FoPHS meetings where there was no uptake. Some parents, carers do not drive and have other children to care for and transport to school/s. We found the best time for meetings was morning. We offer hybrid meetings if there is demand.

Below you will find links to 2 Newsletters, highlighting our achievements over the last 2 years. Come and join us; we would love to see you.

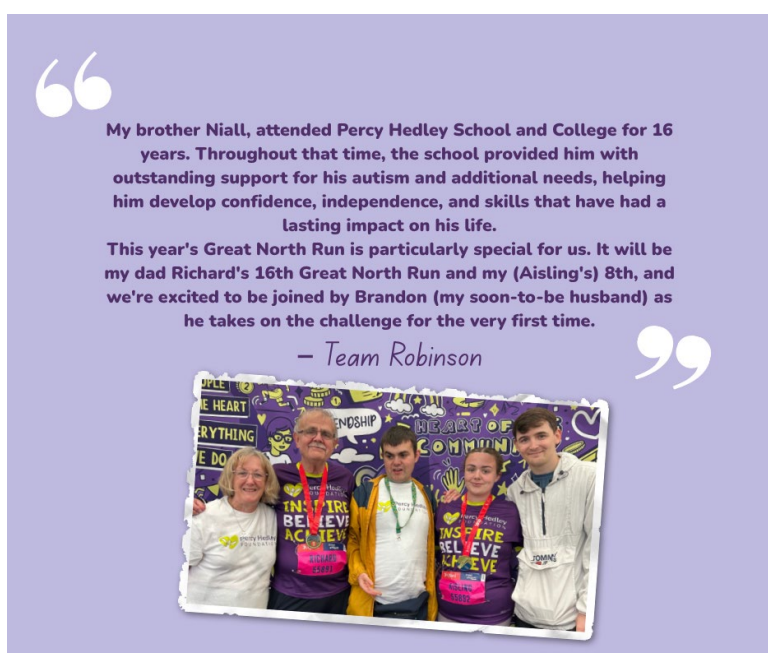
[Support FoPHS – News and Updates 2026](#)

[Support FoPHS – News and Updates 2026](#)

Great North Run:

Team Robinson comprising Richard, Aisling & Brandon are doing the GNR on Sunday to raise funds for FoPHS. Please see link to our story and if you are in South Shields on the day, wandering around the charity village please stop by and see me and Niall. Last year we raised £684. With 3 runners we have a target of £750.

[The link to their donation page is 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 the Facebook Group here](#)



Quote of the Week

Thought for the week:

“Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you’re willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it.”

Lou Holtz



Contact details

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