

Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News 25th September

We are at the halfway mark for this half term, and it has flown by. On Wednesday we had our first social coffee morning of this academic year. It was lovely to welcome new parents to the school and give them the opportunity to talk to other parents and to staff. We were joined by Hannah as Chair of FoPHS and Tracy, who leads on the Leading Parent Partnership Award which is due for renewal in January. It was especially good to hear how our new students have settled into school.

What's coming up?

29th September: We have an Olympian visiting school

Thursday 8th October 14-15.00: Formal pathway coffee afternoon. Classes: HR, KJ, TW, KR & JH. Post 16 formal will be advised separately.

Monday 12th October: We have Animal Encounters visiting school.

Tuesday 13th October: Spanish themed school lunch.

Thursday 15th October 14-15.00: Semi formal pathway coffee afternoon. Classes: CC, HB, RC & MM/HT. Post 16 semi formal pathways will be advised separately.

Tuesday 20th October 14-18.00: "My Journey; My Future" event for parents. More details to follow. This will be open to the whole school.



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

School Calendars

[Term dates 2026-27](#)

[Events calendar 2026-2027](#)



16-19 Bursary

Thanks to those who have returned the forms. I am still waiting on some and would greatly appreciate your returning them to me as soon as possible.

Once the bursary has been received by school, we will be able to inform classes and families of the amount available. We will always work with the class team and families to make best use of the bursary for the purpose intended; to reduce barriers to learning in Post 16 settings. The amount available changes each year and depends on numbers applying and the school census from 2 years ago. School receives a lump sum for the discretionary bursary.

[Find out more 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.

Last Friday a new weekly blog was added. It's all about understanding online misogyny, key 'manosphere' influencers for parents to be aware of, and how parents can support their children at home in understanding misogyny and what to do if they come across platforms/users spreading these harmful messages.

[View the online safety blogs here](#)

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

Information

Pass it on Parents Newcastle upon Tyne

Pass it on Parents support groups Autumn term. This group is Newcastle based and the support groups are open to those living in Newcastle.

Drop into any of our group sessions to meet other parent / carers or speak with our Family advice and support team. No need to book.

Pass it on Parents support groups

Support for Newcastle families with children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This is a relaxed safe space open to all parents/carers to meet, chat and share support. Drop into any of our locations, no diagnosis, booking or referrals are needed.

Come along to find out useful information from our Family Advice and Support Team or come for a chat with other parents/ carers and enjoy a free coffee and biscuits. We can offer advice on grants, activities, events and more.



EVENT DATES & LOCATIONS

**Location: Hadrian School,
Bertram Crescent Newcastle Upon Tyne,
NE15 6PY**

Your child does not need to attend the school to come along.
Please sign in at the school's reception and make your way to
Tommy's cafe in the school.

- Tuesday 29th September from 10:00am-11:30am
- Tuesday 3rd November from 10:00am-11:30am
- Tuesday 1st December from 10:00am-11:30am

**Location: Sir Charles Parsons School
Westbourne Avenue Walker Newcastle
Upon Tyne NE6 4ED**

Your child does not need to attend the school to come along.
Please sign in at the school's reception and make your way to the
dinner hall.

- Wednesday 7th October from 10:30am-12:00pm
- Wednesday 11th November from 10:30am-12:00pm
- Wednesday 9th December from 10:30am-12:00pm

**Location: FAR Centre,
Acanthus Avenue Fenham, Newcastle
Upon Tyne NE4 9YD.**

We will be in the first room up the stairs to your right.

- Tuesday 13th October from 10:30am-12:00pm
- Tuesday 17th November from 10:30am-12:00pm
- Tuesday 15th December from 10:30am-12:00pm

**Chinese coffee morning at Skills for People
4 Glendale Terrace, Byker NE6 1PB
From 10:00am-1:00pm**

The event is open to parent carers of specific Chinese language and heritage groups e.g. Mainland Chinese Mandarin speakers, Cantonese speakers.

- 22nd September - Purple Room
- 19th October - Green Room
- 23rd November - Green Room
- 14th December - Green Room

For further information please contact our office at Skills for People on:
0191 281 8737 or email: information@skillsforpeople.org.uk



North East SEN-collective

🔔SEN WATER SAFETY WORKSHOP 🔔

We see tragedies all too often in the media about SEN kids and water - it's just heartbreaking and we all feel it. So we, in partnership with @coalwave_ and @rlssuk invite you to a FREE workshop dedicated to keeping SEN children and young people safer around water.

SEN children and young people may experience water, risk, communication and regulation differently. Having the right knowledge—and a clear, consistent plan shared by everyone around them—can help prevent emergencies and save lives.

This is about practical guidance for parents, carers, grandparents, family, friends and professionals, covering prevention, preparation, emergency planning and lifelong water safety.

Here's everything you need to know:

📅Thursday 1 October

🕒6.30–8.30pm

📍Northern Stage, Newcastle

💙Adults only

🌻FREE EVENT — TICKET REQUIRED

Book now via this link - it's a free event but you need a ticket to attend so that we don't go over the capacity of the room...

[Book here](#)



Family Fund

📢 Update on the Support for Families with Disabled Children (SFDC) programme in England.

From today (24 September 2026) until the end of March 2027, the programme will only be open to families applying for the first time. This is due to very high levels of applications.

This change is being made so that available funding can reach as many families as possible who have not yet had support through the programme. If you have already

sent an application before today, we will continue to review and process this as usual.

[You can continue to access information and wider support through their website >](#)





Unique Abilities SEND Group

A friendly, non-profit organisation and inclusive community group for children and young people with additional needs (0–16) and their families 💖

WHAT'S ON AT UNIQUE ABILITIES SEND GROUP! ✨

We've got a jam-packed few months ahead, with lots of opportunities to support, connect, share, socialise and enjoy together! ❤️💙

From sensory adventures and Halloween fun to parent/carer support, teen activities and even a magical Northern Lights Newcastle coach trip — there really is something for everyone! 🌈🍁🌲

 Coming up:

🍁 Nature's Changing Colours – 3rd October

🎲 Banter 'N' Bingo – 9th October

👻 Halloween Sensory Session – 18th October

🐼 Spooktacular at the Farm – 31st October

🔥 Spark & Blaze Sensory Session – 7th November

❄️ Winter Sensory Explorers – 22nd November

🌲 Christmas Sensory Explorers – 12th December

✨ Northern Lights Newcastle Coach Trip – 19th December

🎁 Ability & Beyond Teen Christmas Party – 18th December

💜 No diagnosis required

💙 All abilities welcome

💖 Siblings welcome

💚 Not postcode restricted

We're all about creating safe, welcoming spaces where children, young people and families can make friends, have fun and feel like they belong. 🤗

📱 **BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY!** ⬇️

✉️ uniqueabilities-send@hotmail.com

📺 Unique Abilities SEND Support Group

Please share this post with anyone who may benefit from our activities. Every share helps us reach more families who might need the support. 💖🌈

Friends • Fun • Inclusion • Belonging • Brighter Futures

[Here is the link to their Facebook Group:](#)

Email address: uniqueabilities-send@hotmail.com

Telephone: 07870 978037

WHAT'S ON AT UNIQUE ABILITIES SEND GROUP

Support • Connect • Share • Socialise • Enjoy

ACTIVITIES • SUPPORT • FUN • FRIENDSHIPS • INCLUSION • BRIGHTER FUTURES

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
NO DIAGNOSIS REQUIRED
SIBLINGS WELCOME
NOT POSTCODE RESTRICTED

NATURE'S CHANGING COLOURS
A HARVEST SENSORY ADVENTURE
SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER
10.30AM - 12.00PM
St John's Hall, Meadowfield
£5 PER CHILD
FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
FREE refreshments for all

BANTER N' BINGO
WITH PIE AND PEA SUPPER
FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER
7.30PM - 9.30PM
St John's Hall, Meadowfield
£10 PER PERSON
Includes 2 games of bingo and pie and pea supper (Price bings - not cash)
STRICTLY ADULTS ONLY

Sensory Explorers HALLOWEEN SENSORY SESSION
SPECIALIST SENSORY EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND
SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER
10.30AM - 12.00PM
Jubilee Fields Community Centre, Chiddingfold
£5 PER CHILD
FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
FREE refreshments for all

SCENE SPOOKY AT THE FARM FUNDRAISER
FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER
10AM - 2PM
SCNE at the Farm, Leighton, Cambridgeshire CB8 7BA
£4 PER CHILD
FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
FREE refreshments for all

Sensory Explorers SPARK AND BLAZE SENSORY SESSION
CELEBRATING BONFIRE NIGHT AND FIREWORKS
SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER
10.30AM - 12.00PM
St John's Hall, Meadowfield
£5 PER CHILD
FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
FREE refreshments for all

Sensory Explorers Winter Sensory Explorers
A special sensory experience for children with SEND
SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER
10.30AM - 12.00PM
Jubilee Fields Community Centre, Chiddingfold
£5 PER CHILD
FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
FREE refreshments for all

Sensory Explorers Christmas Sensory Explorers
A Christmas sensory experience for children with SEND
SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER
10.30AM - 12.00PM
St John's Hall, Meadowfield
£7 PER CHILD
FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
FREE refreshments for all

NORTHERN LIGHTS Coach Trip
SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER
Pick up points: Newcastle Rugby 14.50pm, Spangmoor 15.00pm, Meadowfield 15.30pm
£15 PER PERSON
Children 2 and under FREE

CHRISTMAS PARTY
Ages 12 - 17yrs
FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER
6PM
Venue and details to be confirmed very soon!

BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Scan the QR code to book your tickets

Easy booking
Secure payments
Support our charity
Don't miss out!

Let's make magical memories together! 💖

Friends Fun Inclusion Belonging Brighter Futures

You're Not Alone

For more information:
✉️ uniqueabilities-send@hotmail.com
📺 Unique Abilities SEND Support Group

Proudly supported by:
Living Stronger Starts, TESCO Every little helps, believe housing

The ability to overcome any obstacle

Registered charity number 1213936

SEND SPORTS STARS 🏆

Running out of [Family Gateway](#) every Tuesday, SEND Sports Stars provides active, fun sessions for the whole family. Completely FREE to attend and OPEN TO ALL.



Join us every Tuesday for a fun, free and inclusive sports session for children aged 6–11 and their families. ❤️

⚽ Try different sports and games

💜 Build confidence

👨👩👧👦 Have fun together

💰 Meet other families

📍 Howdon Community Hub

🕒 Tuesdays, 4–5pm

👉 Completely FREE!

All abilities. All families. All welcome. 💙

[Sign up here!](#)

Who are “Family Gateway”?

We are a community based charity established in 2011 that works with individuals, children and families to alleviate poverty, improve wellbeing, raise aspiration and increase employability. We deliver holistic support to deliver long lasting change that permeates throughout the generations and the community.

Our mission is to support and empower families and communities to make the changes needed to improve life chances for children.

Contact Information:

Telephone: 0191 209 0092

Email: admin@familygateway.co.uk



Gateway Wheelers

🚲 THIS IS GATEWAY WHEELERS! ❤️

A couple of weeks ago, this video was shown at the first ever North East Accessible Cycling Conference at the Baltic in Gateshead — and now we're really excited to share it with everyone!

If you've wondered what we do or thought about coming along but felt a little nervous about taking that first step — have a watch. ❤️

You don't need to know how to ride, you don't need to balance on two wheels, and you don't need to know which cycle will work for you.

That's our job! 🚲

We have a huge range of accessible cycles and we adapt the session to the rider, not the rider to the session.

A massive thank you to all of our riders, families, carers, volunteers and trustees who helped make the video possible — and a special thank you to Dan Jones from ELM Photography for the fantastic drone footage! 📹💛

WHAT OUR YOUTUBE VIDEO 📺



Barnability

BARNABILITY JUNIORS IS HERE! 📌

We're super excited to launch our Barnability Juniors sessions! 💚💙💛

Aimed at 5–15-year-olds with learning or physical disabilities, these sessions are all about making exercise fun, relaxed and something our young athletes actually WANT to come back to. 🤸🤸🎯

We want to help young people:

🌟 Build confidence

👉 Make friends

👉 Discover movement

😄 Have fun

❤️ Feel included

🌟 Develop skills for a brighter future

And we're kicking things off with a FREE introductory session!

📅 Friday 16th October

🕒 5pm

📍 The Barn, Thorneyford Farm, Ponteland, United Kingdom, NE20 0AJ. (very near Kirkley hall)

Spaces are limited, so please book your slot.

📧 Barnability@gmail.com

Whether your child is sporty, not sporty, nervous about exercise or just wants to come along and have some fun — they're welcome at Barnability. 😊

Small steps. Bigger tomorrows. ❤️

ABILITY JUNIORS

FREE INTRODUCTORY SESSION

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16TH AT 5PM

This class is aimed for 5-15 years and learning or physical disabilities. The aim of the session is to introduce exercise in a fun laid back environment so it becomes something your young athletes want to seek out doing throughout life.

BUILD CONFIDENCE **MAKE FRIENDS** **HAVE FUN** **BRIGHTER FUTURES**

FOR LIFE **MOVE PLAY BELONG** **ALL ABILITIES ALL WELCOME**

PLEASE BOOK YOUR SLOT!

Email: Barnability@gmail.com
 Barn Fitness Thorneyford farm

Peter Rabbit Sculpture Farewell Event

Some of you may have seen some of these sculptures around the Northeast over the past few months. All 102 sculptures, some unseen will be available to view in the Newcastle Civic Centre on Saturday/Sunday 10th-11th October. This and previous trails are an initiative to raise funds for St Oswald's Hospice, which some of our students past and present access for respite. The sculptures will then be auctioned off to raise funds for St Oswald's.

There will be face-painting and refreshments on offer as well as a final chance to snap up trail merchandise. And visitors also will be able to enter a raffle for a chance to win a Peter Rabbit sculpture as well as a car.

For followers of the trail map who might not have managed to complete the route, the Farewell Event will be a chance to collect the final codes, complete the trail and unlock any of the outstanding offers or rewards that formed part of it, enabling them to collect their finishers certificate and sticker. Some of the artists who painted the sculptures will be there too, to chat about their work.

Tickets for a time-slot visit are on sale now, costing £8 for adults and £3 for children, while those aged three and under can be taken along for free. A family or group ticket, for four people including up to two adults, is available for £15.

Booking a quiet hour, from 10am, is another option. For tickets for the Farewell Weekend experience see [here](#).



**Farewell to
the Fluffle Weekend**

**Saturday 10th – Sunday 11th October 2026,
Newcastle Civic Centre**

Fun for all the family. Book your tickets now!

I am sometimes asked about sibling groups, hence sharing this for those interested.

The SEND Club CIC

Watch out for our The SEND Sibling Club: Launch also coming this November 🧡

[Here is the link to their Facebook group:](#)



Kielder Winter Wonderland

We're thrilled to be bringing our day of relaxed performances back to Kielder Winter Wonderland this year.

****Saturday 28 November****

Some time slots are already full so don't miss out!

[Book here](#)





We look forward to another successful year ahead. I'm waiting to hear some dates and one I have these will arrange our meetings. We would love to see more parents engage and appreciate the challenges some of you face.

We hope to offer school photos again this year.

Great North Run; Team Robinson

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising this year. We have now raised £876 and with a few offline ones to come am hopeful we can get to £900.

[Here is the link for anyone who would like to support:](#)





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

My quote offering this week:

“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value”.

Albert Einstein



Contact details

Eileen Robinson: Family Liaison Officer

Email: e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 2161811 ext. 3260.