

Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News 16th October 2026

With just 1 week left of this half term I hope that you have found these weekly Newsletters helpful. I always appreciate feedback, positive and negative along with suggestions on how to improve them. It has been a busy week, with 2 departmental coffee afternoons and we also had Rev Sarah Moon in doing a Harvest festival assembly.

Just to reiterate that the "My Journey My Future" event on Tuesday 20th is for the whole school. Providers invited are there to give you an opportunity to see them in one place, to answer questions and provide information about their service. We hope to see you there.

What's coming up?

I have shared information on the pathways with you. I am leaving the colour coding below to help you see what events are open to parents.

On the events calendar you will find dates highlighted as follows:

Student Events in school
Parents welcome
Special menu for school lunch

Tuesday 20th October 14-18.00. My Journey; My Future event for the whole school.
Parents invited [Find a letter about it here](#)

Wednesday 21st October 9.45-10.45. FoPHS Meeting. **Parents invited** [Find a letter about it here](#)

Friday 23rd October: School closes at 15.30 for half term and reopens on Monday 2nd November.



School Calendars

[Term dates 2026-27](#)

[Events calendar 2026-2027](#)

[Term Dates 2027-2028](#)

Important

Harvest Festival collection



THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN 1985 HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

Our work is only made possible thanks to your kindness and generosity. The People's Kitchen is run entirely by volunteers for every penny donated goes directly to helping our vulnerable friends who might be homeless, at risk, unemployed, lonely, or living in poverty.



Items we need	Examples
Tinned Veg	Tomatoes Plum & Chopped, Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Potatoes
Tinned Fruit	Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail, Pears, Mandarin Oranges
Soup	Tinned or Instant Vegetable, Tomato, Chicken, Broth, Lentil, Potato & Leek
Cooking/ Baking Ingredients	Sugar-Caster & Granulated, Flour – SR & Plain, Jam, Coconut, Cocoa, Dried Fruit, Cooking Oil, Lentils, Broth Mix, Spices
Snacks	Pot Noodles, Pot Pasta, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolate, Sweets, Cereal Bars
Drinks	UHT Milk, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Cartons of Juice, Fruit Squash
Desserts	Rice Pudding, Jelly, Angel Delight, Instant & Tinned Custard, Evaporated Milk, Golden Syrup, Black Treacle
Tinned Meat	Ham, Corned Beef, Chilli, Curry, Minced Beef, Bolognese, Stewing Steak
Cooking Sauces	Indian, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Coconut Milk
Condiments	Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise, Salt, Pepper
Pasta & Rice	Lasagne, Egg Noodles, Rice
Stock and Gravy	Vegetarian, Beef, Chicken, Onion
Toiletries	Soap, Mens Spray Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Razors, Toothpaste and Brushes, Sanitary Products
Cleaning/Other	Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Books, DVD's, DVD Players/ Small -Medium Flat Screen TV's
Rough Sleepers	Sleeping Bags, Rucksacks, Handwarmers, Flasks, Unlocked Mobile Phone
Pet Food	Dog & Cat Food – Wet, Dry and Treats
Clothing	Trainers, Waterproof Jackets, Joggers, , Jeans, Sweat Shirts, T Shirts, Socks, Gloves, Scarfs, Hats

We are grateful for your kind donations – We do not accept food if it is opened.
Clothing does not need to be new, but we ask for it to be in good condition and clean.
We do not need used duvets, suits, dress shirts, or summer clothing.

Thank you for any help and support you can give us!

All donations are gratefully accepted. We will always try to minimise waste, so will occasionally share surplus food/clothes with other charities. If any of the people who come to us for clothes are young men and often need small sizes in clothes. We have to thank you for the items that are suitable for teenage and young adults when we see them. We have an Amazon wish list where people can purchase items online and post direct to us.

amazon
wishlist

THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN: The Hub Centre, 58 Bath Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 1DQ
0191 221 0555 & thepeopleskitchen.co.uk @peopleskitchen

School is still collecting donations for the Peoples Kitchen, and we greatly appreciate your support. Below is a list of items they are most in need of.

If you can help, please send donations into school by Friday 23rd October. You can send them in with your child or drop them at reception. The collection box is filling up nicely.

The collection is growing nicely; it is good for us to think about those who are struggling as the winter approaches.



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.

Here is the Online Safety blog this week, all around new age checks online and the latest Ofcom report on it!

[View the online safety blogs here](#)

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



Proposed changes to SEN support

The government has produced a white paper outlining the changes. These have not yet been made law. I thought that this week I would use this section to signpost parents/carers to charities and specialist organisations who are knowledgeable and some are challenging the changes.

However, it is important to share what the government is proposing. [You can find all the information here:](#)

Where can you go to find out more?

[IPSEA: Independent provider of specialist education advice.](#)

[IPSPEA: Don't Jump the SEND Law Gun](#)

[Contact-for families of Disabled Children with The Disabled Children's Partnership](#)

[Special Needs Jungle](#)

[Special Needs Jungle – the Government Must Now Listen More](#)

[Disabled Children's Partnership](#)



I will include any half term activities I have not yet shared. I will also do a run down of Winter light trails in the area. These tend to be appropriate for many of our students as they are accessible and

Northern Lights Newcastle



From Friday 20th November to Thursday 31st December at Leazes Park this is what it is:

“Northern Lights Newcastle is a spectacular kilometre-long Christmas light trail at Leazes Park, transforming the city park into a glowing winter wonderland. Wander through the immersive light installations, uncover hidden moments of magic and explore our vibrant Christmas Village offering festive food, drinks and fairground fun”.

Cost: children under 2 years free of charge.

[Find out more here](#)

I have found a 20% discount using code LIGHT20 if booked via their website. You can change dates with 24 hours' notice at no extra charge.

[Accessibility information here:](#)

Forest of Light: Beamish Hall

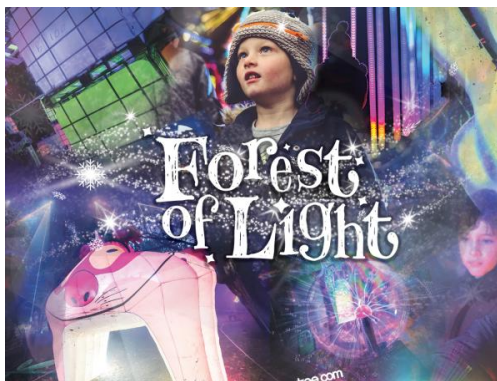
From Friday 21st November to Sunday 3rd January at beamish Hall Durham, costing £12-£13. There is a SEN reduced capacity option at £12. Infants under 1 year old free of charge.

This is not an accessible event as it is via forest trails.

“Our Forest of Light is a captivating illuminated experience set within our enchanted ancient woodland. We have created a world filled with illuminations, music, interactive props and projections to dazzle and amaze”.

[Find tickets here](#)

Tickets are non-refundable.



Alnwick Garden and Lilledorei:

You can get a combined ticket for the winter lights at both Alnwick Garden and Lilledorei

“Winter Lights are back again this year. Not only can you see the light trail in The Alnwick Garden, an immersive experience of light and sound with installations, you can also see the lights around Lilledorei!

See The Garden and Lilledorei like never before and experience the perfect winter tradition this Christmas”.

There is a changing place at the Alnwick Garden and the trail is accessible

Ticket prices vary, from £11.50-£20.50. They are tiered in Saver, Standard and Premium depending on day, date and time. Max cards are accepted.

[More information here:](#)



This one is not a light trail, but a Snowman sculpture trail.

Walking with The Snowman at Belsay Castle and Gardens.

Free entry for English Heritage members, from Saturday 7th November till Sunday 10th January between 10-16.00 there is a Snowman trail. Adult membership is £14.50, children 0-4 years free and there are family memberships too. There is also a 15% online booking discount as I write. You do need to book the trail. Pick up a trail map as you enter.

There is a café and a changing place toilet.

[Find out more here](#)



North Tyneside Disability Forum

🎃SEND FRIENDLY HALF TERM🎃

North Tyneside Disability Forum have spaces available in their youth sessions during October Half Term 🥰



We have spaces left on our October Half Term sessions! Lots of Halloween fun and games planned for the week 🎃

Spaces must be pre-booked, get in touch with Anna to get booked in





OCTOBER HALF TERM YOUTH SESSIONS

Day time sessions for young people 8+

October 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th

£10 a day

We have lots of different activities including arts and crafts, basketball, football, games, dancing, singing, pool, kurling, boccia, and lots more!



Spaces must be reserved in advance.

New members must come for a visit before
their space is confirmed.

We do not provide personal care or 1:1 support and the
young person must be able to attend independently.

📞 0191 466 1673 ✉ anna.goldblatt@ntdf.co.uk

North Tyneside Disability Forum is a Registered Charity Number 1182346

Money Saving Central

Places where kids eat free or for £1 in school holidays. This list is updated as and when new venues join. [To see the latest version please visit:](#)


KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) OCTOBER HALF TERM 2026


moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

ANGUS STEAKHOUSE Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm ASDA Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend ASK ITALIAN Kids Eat Free October 9th - 31st via Perks App BELLA ITALIA Children eat for £1 with any adult main BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE 2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with 1 paying adult BILLS Kids Eat Free Monday 26th - Friday 30th October BREWDOG Kids eat free this Oct with KIDS EAT FREE bookings CAFE ROUGE Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week CHIKUITO Kids eat FREE during all school holidays DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch FARMHOUSE INNS 2 Kids eat free during the October Half Term FLAMING GRILL 1 Kid eats free weekdays this October half term FRANKIE & BENNY'S Kids eat FREE during school holidays FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day HARVESTER Kids eat for £1 until November 1st 2026 via App HUNGRY HORSE 2 Kids eat for £1 this October Half Term IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am LAS IGUANAS Kids eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App	MARCO PIERRE WHITE Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend MARSTON PUBS kids eat for £1 during the october half term MORRISONS Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day PREMIER INN 2 Kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult PUREZZA Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal SA BRAINS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays SIZZLING PUBS Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm TABLE TABLE 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult TESCO Kids Eat free weekdays with an adult purchase TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App) THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend TRAVELODGE 2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast TURTLE BAY Kids eat free with a £15 adult spend via app VILLAGE HOTELS Kids eat free via the village app WHITBREAD INNS 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast YO! SUSHI Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays ZIZZI Kids eat free weekdays in school holidays
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Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 21st October 9.45-10.45**. Thanks to those who returned reply slips with suggestions. We will be planning and hope to have opportunities to fundraise at school enterprise fayres as plans emerge. We do have some plans and await response from our school leadership team and will update once we have confirmation.

[See a letter about it here](#)

In the meantime, if you can help decorate a Santa's grotto in December, help at enterprise fayres, donate raffle prizes or anything we can use for a raffle please get in touch with me.

100 Club

Last year the uptake for the 100 club dropped significantly. The 100 club is a draw whereby 50% of money received is retained by FoPHS and the remaining 50% is given as prizes. Although we raised £282 the winner prize was £23.50 and we are unsure if we should continue. If 100 people paid £12 for the year:

FoPHS would raise £600

Each winner would receive £50.

Some staff support too yet we only managed to get to 47 numbers. If we were to do it, what would you suggest?

We are grateful to those who supported every year and to the parent who got several members of her family to subscribe too.

IQ Christmas Cards

Most classes have got involved and students have designed their own Christmas card. We have done this for the last few years and parents/carers like to see their child's design transformed. The ordering process this year is different. Original designs were sent to the company. They will scan and send us order forms. Parents/carers will order directly from them rather than through school. If you have a problem with online orders, once you receive your design please contact me and I will try to find a solution.

[Here is the link to the company if you are interested:](#)



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

As our Harvest celebrations continue, I thought this week's quote apt:

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant".

Robert Louis Stevenson.



Contact details

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