

Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News 2nd October 2026

It has been more autumnal this week as we move to October. High winds and fluctuating temperatures as expected for this time of year. Although my personal favourite season is Spring, the changing colours on trees and conkers make autumn spectacular too.



16-19 Bursary Final call

Thanks to those who have returned the applications. I have texted those which are outstanding yesterday.

If you are in receipt of Universal Credit or your household income is less than £40,000 your child will be eligible for the **discretionary bursary**. I have sent text reminders to those who have not applied. If you have not and are eligible, please contact me immediately. Once the bursary (lump sum) is received and allocated we cannot accept new applications.

If your child is claiming Universal Credit and PIP in their own name or is in Local Authority Care they will be eligible for the **vulnerable bursary**. If this is true for your child and you have not applied, again please contact me immediately.

If you have any questions, I am here to help.

[For more information on the bursary visit here](#)



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

School Calendars

[Term dates 2026-27](#)

[Events calendar 2026-2027](#)



Before I list the events, I want to explain how the parental events seem to be working out. We have new pathways reflecting the way school operates in terms of meeting student needs.

These are:

EYFS; our early years provision.

Pre-formal

Informal

Semi formal

Formal.

Early years may have their own events or link with others in future.

Pre formal, semi formal and Informal may combine lower and upper school classes

Post 16 semi formal and formal will have their own events.

Here is the list of classes and pathways:

EYFS/KS1: KB

Pre Formal: CH, AH, HF

Informal: LT/HL, BE

Semi formal: CC, HB, RC, MM/HT, RR, LA, RD/RM

Formal: HR, KJ, TW, AJ, KR JH, LWC, OW

What's coming up?

I will highlight events to which parents/carers are invited.

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

Student Events in school

Parents welcome

Special menu for school lunch

Friday 2nd October: Harvest festival with visit from Rev Sarah Moon (semi formal pathway)

Tuesday 6th October: Harvest festival with visit from Rev Sarah Moon (pre formal pathway)

Wednesday 7th October: Harvest festival with visit from Rev Sarah Moon (formal pathway)

Thursday 8th October 14-15.00: Formal pathway classes (not Post 16). **Parents invited**

Friday 9th October: Hello Yellow for Young Minds wellbeing day

Monday 12th October: Animal encounters visit to school

Tuesday 13th October: Spanish themed menu will replace the normal school lunch menu

Thursday 15th October 14-15.00: Semi formal pathway AND Post 16 (semi formal and formal classes) coffee afternoons. **Parents invited**

Tuesday 20th October 14-18.00. My Journey; My Future event for the whole school.

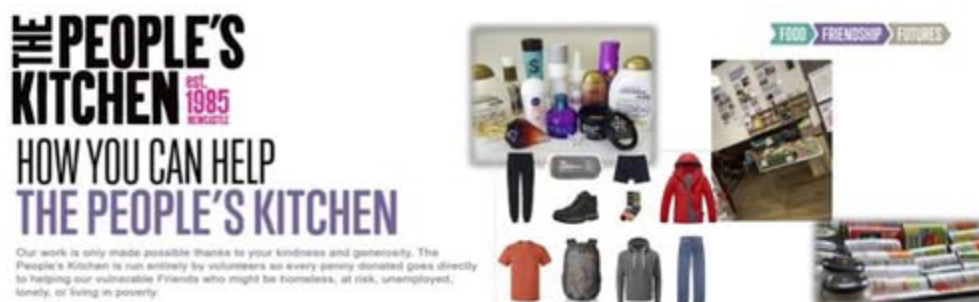
Parents invited

Wednesday 21st October 9.45-10.45. FoPHS Meeting. **Parents invited**

Harvest Festival collection.

School is collecting donations for the Peoples Kitchen and would 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.

The following letter will be sent home today:



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. A lot of the people who come to us for clothes are young men and often need small sizes in clothes. We like to ensure we give items that are suitable for storage and buy clothes when we are short. We have an Amazon wish list where people can purchase items online and post direct to us.

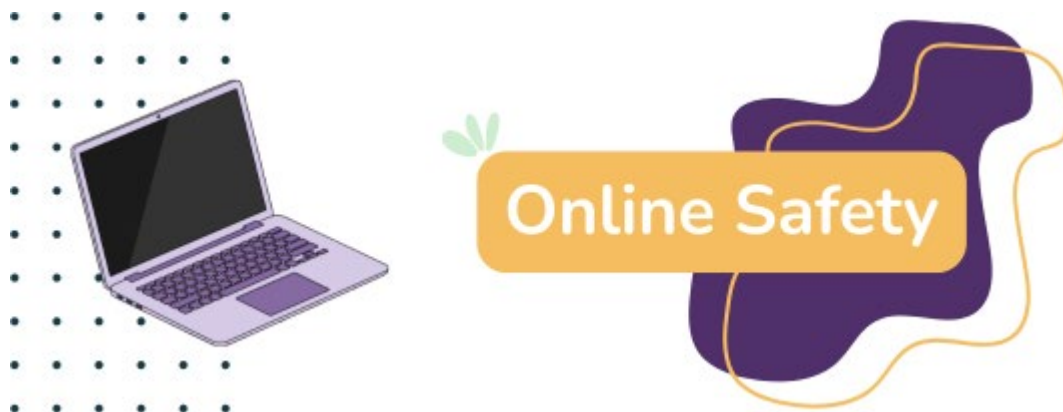
amazon
wishlist

THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN LIMITED The Alton Centre, 50 Bath Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5DQ
T 0191 222 0550 E info@peopleskitchen.co.uk www.peopleskitchen.co.uk

Hello Yellow for Young Minds

Next Friday 9th October the school will participate. Letter is going home today.

[Here is a copy:](#)



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](#)



This week I thought I would focus on online workshops for parent/carers.



I frequently share these workshops and, as I have attended and had recommendations from other parents am happy to endorse. They offer 2 free webinars on “Making decisions” and “Planning for the future”. Both are important issues which will affect most of our students and their families.

You can also request a download of the Wills and Trusts guide.

Planning for the Future:

This covers planning for your young person’s financial future. This webinar is repeated fortnightly and here are links to the next few:

[Thursday 8th October 10.30-12.00](#)

[Thursday 22nd October 10.30-12.00](#)

[Thursday 5th November 10.30-12.00](#)

Making decisions:

This covers issues relating to decision making for your young person once they are over the age of 16. I can’t emphasise enough the importance of parents understanding the Mental Capacity Act and how it affects any decision once your child is an adult. This webinar is only done approximately twice a year. The next one will be on

[Tuesday 13th October 10.30-12.00](#)



This charity has a range of free webinars which are available to UK residents free of charge.

You will find the full list, which may be updated at any stage here:

Here are some of the themes coming up:

Understanding sleep difficulties in Autism Thursday 15th October 10-11.30

Social Stories Monday 19th October 12.30-13.30

Communicating with Autistic teenagers Monday 2nd November 12-14.00

Understanding Autism Tuesday 13th January 2027 11.30-13.00



 FREE Family Workshops this October!*

We have limited spaces on the following online workshops, delivered on Zoom between 9:45 AM - 1 PM for parents and carers.

- No Diagnosis Required -

 Eating & Nutrition - 1st Oct

 Supporting Emotional Regulation & Behaviour - 2nd Oct

 Change & Transition - 13th Oct

- Autism Diagnosis Required -

 Autism & Wellbeing - 6th Oct

 Next Steps: Autistic Teenagers (Parent session) - 23rd Oct

 Next Steps: Autistic Children (Parent session) - 29th Oct

Call our Workshops Team on 0345 300 1348 or click to apply  bit.ly/4hw56B3

Note: 2 free workshops per family per annum.



contact *For families with disabled children*

There are various webinars covered by this charity. However, they tend to be funded by different Local Authorities, hence open to residents living in that area.

[I will share any I see which are for our area but here is the link to the page.](#)



SOS SEN is a national charity that aims to empower parents and carers of children and young people with SEND to successfully tackle the difficulties they face when trying to secure the right educational provision for their children.

They do run online webinars usually in the evenings. There is often a small charge for these.

[Visit here for more details](#)



Half term and Hallowe'en will soon be here. I will try to find and share related activities. Over the next few weeks.

Whitehouse Farm

🎃👻 OUR HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR 2026 BEGINS OCTOBER 10TH! 🧛🎃

We have a fang-tastic line-up ready for you this year... and there's SO much to get excited about! 🧛 [See here for the full line-up!](#)

🆕 NEW for 2026:

🏴‍☠️ Pirate Games – can your crew conquer the challenges?

⚖️ ARRRR YOU GUILTY? – our hilarious new family comedy show!

Plus all the Halloween favourites you know and love... 🎃

🎃 Pick your own pumpkin in our INDOOR Pumpkin Patch

🔪 Get creative at the Pumpkin Carving Station

🧙 Join Witches & Wizards School

🌟 Watch our Spooktacular Show

👤 Brave the Walkway of Terror

👻 Meet some spooky characters

📷 Capture the perfect Halloween photo

🎵 Join Winnie Witch for Halloween Storytime & songs

 Enter our Fancy Dress Competition

And of course, all your favourite Farmtastic activities will be running too! 

 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 23rd - 31st October – Halloween Spooktacular 2026

 Open 10am–5pm

 Indoor & outdoor activities for all ages

 Whatever the weather, the spooky fun goes on!

Tickets are on sale now - who's brave enough to join us?!

[Click here for tickets](#)

[See Whitehouse Farm's website here](#)

Over the last few years Whitehouse Farm has upgraded it's offer for those with physical and learning disabilities. There is a "Changing Place", sensory room and you can hire sensory packs. However, on looking at ticket prices I was somewhat surprised to see that free carer tickets are no longer available. You need to purchase a Child plus carer or adult plus carer ticket and provide proof of being a carer, either professional or unpaid.

[Tickets:](#)



Tim Lamb Centre

I have covered previously, but here goes in case you missed it:

Situated in the Rising Sun Country park (behind Asda Benton) this has an accessible play area, gaming, sensory, art and trampoline rooms and a café. Family Membership is £20 for the year with an additional £4 per child visiting. They also have access to 2 caravans which, once you have been a member for 6 months you can book.

There is a fully accessible changing facility with ceiling hoist too.

[Website:](#)

[Facebook group:](#)

[Memberships form:](#)

OCTOBER

HALF TERM

**WE ARE OPEN EVERY DAY
10-4PM DURING HALF TERM
FOR STAY & PLAY**

**MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER
10-12 CRAZY CREATURES**

**BE BRAVE AND MEET
SCALY REPTILES**

**TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER
SPOOKY FOAM PARTY
WITH PARTY GEMS
1-3PM**

SPOOKY PARTY FUN

**FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER
1-3PM FACE PAINTING
1-2PM MEET
MALIFISCENT**

**GET YOUR FACE PAINTED
AND MEET MALIFISCENT**

**VALID MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED
NO BOOKING**

Pathways4All

Woodhorn Museum

I have copied this from:

 Arborialis Luminarium by Architects of Air is heading to Woodhorn Museum in Northumberland this October Half Term

Need to Know:

 Sat 24 - Thurs 29 Oct 2026

✓ You must book a ticket to visit. Ticket booking opens soon - sign up to the North East Museums mailing list to be the first to hear

✓ FREE for under 18s (under 16s need to be accompanied)

✓ Included with a Woodhorn annual pass for adults at no additional cost (if you don't already own one, an annual pass costs £9-£11 per adult & as well as this event, can be used to visit Woodhorn for a full year)

✓ Fully wheelchair accessible

✓ Daily relaxed sessions available

✓ You need to remove your shoes - warm socks are recommended

 Other activities you can enjoy at Woodhorn before / after your visit at no additional cost include a Pumpkin Trail, Pitman Playground, Sensory Garden, Pitman: The Exhibition, Northumberland History / Interactive Mining Museum, Mining for Memories Craft & Museum Trolley Activities for Under 5s

 There's also a cafe on site

What to expect - a giant & immersive walk through piece of art filled with colour, light and sound. A real feast for the senses and an experience I would certainly recommend. I found it to be super calming and kind of out of this world. The photos in this post are from a similar event I attended last year.

Alan Shearer Centre

There are a few sessions over half term. They must be booked. Please see posters for details. If you have yet to visit, perhaps half term would be worth having a look. It is situated 5 minutes' drive from the A1 Denton Burn/A69 roundabout and is in a cul de sac making it safe for very active children. Membership is free and there are lots of different rooms you can book, although a limit on how many per month. There's an outside play area, a small woodland walk and a hydrotherapy pool. If you've been watching the news you will know they are fundraising for a second pool as it is in high demand, being the only one I know of that is free of charge.

They have a changing place style facility and a café.

[Website:](#)

[Facebook group:](#)

[Membership form:](#)

Phone number: 0191 267 8118

There are 2 Autumn Sensory Bottle workshops on Saturday and Sunday 24/25 October from 11-12.00. [See link here for details.](#)



Music therapy is a fun way to build self expression, reduce isolation, encourage social interaction, boost confidence, aid cognitive function and speech and supports physical development!

Kim's Music Therapy

Monday 26th October

Adult	Children
11.00-11.45am	1.00-1.45pm
12.00-12.45pm	2.00-2.45pm

It is essential that you book as spaces are limited!
Ring early so you are not disappointed.
Call on 0191 267 8118



Happy Hands Massage

Wednesday 28th October

Children	Adults
1.00pm	2.00pm

Enjoy a relaxing SEND sensory massage

It is absolutely essential that you call to book, ring early so you are not disappointed, as spaces are limited
0191 267 8118



NAPI - North East Action for Children Parents and Inclusion CIO 1161983

is with **Walker Central FC Official** and **Walker Park Cafe & Community Centre**.

🏈❤️💙NEW WALKER WARRIORS SESSIONS! 💙❤️🏈

Walker Central FC, in partnership with NAPI, is launching Pan Disability Football sessions for young people aged 9–15.

A welcoming and inclusive environment where players can:

★Develop football skills

👉Make new friends

👉Build confidence

❤️Have fun!

📍 Walker Central FC, Walker, Newcastle

📅 Date: TBC – new sessions starting soon!

Interested in getting involved?

✉ admin@napi.org.uk

☎ 0191 265 6158

Get in touch to register your interest and be the first to hear when dates are confirmed! ⚽👉

Please share and help spread the word! ❤️💙

[Here is a link to their Facebook page where there are other opportunities:](#)



The poster is for Walker Central FC Warriors Pan Disability Football. It features the club's crest on the left, which includes a soccer ball and the year 1988. The text 'WALKER CENTRAL FC' is on the crest, and 'WALKER WARRIORS' is written in large, stylized letters to the right. Below this, it says 'PAN DISABILITY FOOTBALL'. Further down, it says 'IN PARTNERSHIP WITH' followed by the NAPI logo. The main headline is 'NEW SESSIONS FOR 9 - 15 YEAR OLDS'. Below this, there are five icons with corresponding text: a wheelchair icon for 'INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT', a group of people icon for 'MAKE FRIENDS', a soccer ball icon for 'DEVELOP SKILLS', a star icon for 'BUILD CONFIDENCE', and a heart icon for 'HAVE FUN'. At the bottom, there is a section with three columns: 'AGE RANGE 9 - 15 YEARS' with a group icon, 'AT WALKER CENTRAL FC WALKER, NEWCASTLE' with a location pin icon, and 'NEW SESSIONS STARTING SOON' with a clock icon. Below this, there are two contact options: 'EMAIL admin@napi.org.uk TO ENQUIRE' with an envelope icon, and 'CALL 01912656158 TO ENQUIRE' with a phone icon. A soccer ball with the club's crest is shown in the background.

WALKER CENTRAL FC 1988
WALKER WARRIORS
PAN DISABILITY FOOTBALL
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NAPI
NEW SESSIONS FOR 9 - 15 YEAR OLDS
INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT
MAKE FRIENDS
DEVELOP SKILLS
BUILD CONFIDENCE
HAVE FUN
AGE RANGE 9 - 15 YEARS
AT WALKER CENTRAL FC WALKER, NEWCASTLE
NEW SESSIONS STARTING SOON
EMAIL admin@napi.org.uk TO ENQUIRE
CALL 01912656158 TO ENQUIRE

Super 1S Cricket sessions.

See poster for details of these free sessions.



SUPER 1S VENUES

TUESDAYS 5.15pm - 6.15pm
SUNDERLAND COLLEGE
(BEDE CENTRE)

WEDNESDAYS 5pm - 6pm
TEMPLE PARK CENTRE,
SOUTH SHIELDS

THURSDAYS 5pm - 6pm
GRACE COLLEGE, GATESHEAD

FRIDAYS 5.30pm - 6.30pm
LOUISA CENTRE, STANLEY

**ALL DISABILITIES
WELCOME**

AGES 7- 25

**FREE INCLUSIVE
CRICKET SESSIONS**

**GET ACTIVE AND MAKE
NEW FRIENDS
IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS
AND CHALLENGE
YOURSELF**



CONTACT:
DARYL SMITH
Disability Inclusion Officer
07847531736
daryl.smith@durhamcricket.co.uk

**LORD'S TAVERNERS**
Giving young people a sporting chance

www.lordstaverners.org/super1s



Cerebral Palsy Sport are planning a FREE multisport event in Gateshead, during half term, **28th October 2026**. All ages and disabilities are welcome. See poster below for details



Inclusive Sports Festival

Gateshead Leisure Centre
Wednesday 28th October
11:30am – 4:00pm

Featuring Wheelchair Basketball, Tennis, Athletics,
Wheelchair Rugby and more!
Open to all ages and all disabilities

If you have any questions, please
contact Alex.Claydon@cpsport.org

Scan below to
sign up



#iwill
movement



HM Government



COMMUNITY
FUND



We warmly invite you to join us at our next meeting. This will be on **Wednesday 21st October** from 9.45-10.45. If you would prefer to join online, please let me know and I will set up TEAMS.

We will be planning for the year ahead and would like your suggestions. We will also be looking for volunteers to help at events. Our Chair, Hannah will discuss tentative plans with the school's leadership team before the meeting.

Want to know more about FoPHS? We raise funds to enhance the learning experience for all students.

Have a look at these Newsletters:

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

[Support FoPHS – News and Updates 2025](#)

Team Robinson GNR 2026



My wonderful husband Richard, daughter Aisling and son in law Brandon completed this last month and their fundraising total is £906, not including gift aid. If you sponsored, thank you. These funds will help us continue supporting school, something that remains important to our family 9 years after my son Niall left PHS.

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

Here's the family celebrating another special event which had an impact on their training (Team Robinson's goal has always focused on funds over PB's)



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 October linked quote for the week/month:

The end of the summer is not the end of the world; here's to October.

AA Milne



Contact details

Eileen Robinson: Family Liaison Officer

Email: e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 2161811 ext. 3260.