

Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News 9th October 2026

We're over halfway through the first half term and it has flown by. The first of the departmental coffee afternoons was yesterday and the rest will follow. Please keep an eye on this blog and the events calendar for up-to-date information.

Leading Parent Partnership Award. (LPPA)

We are working to renew this next year, and you have received text and email links to a very short survey. We would appreciate your taking the time to complete it. As the form is not set to collect personal details and has been sent to current parents, I will not share the link here. However, if you would like it sent again, please contact me. Your views are important and will be shared with the school's leadership team and the awarding body.

What's coming up?

Last week I shared with you information on pathways and events. Colour codes added to this helps parents identify which events are open to parents. You will also receive letters from departments for ones specific to your child/young person.

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

Student Events in school
Parents welcome
Special menu for school lunch

Monday 12th October: Animal encounters visit to school

Tuesday 13th October: Spanish themed menu will replace the normal school lunch menu. [See menu here](#)

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**

[See the letter about it here](#)

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



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

School Calendars

[Term dates 2026-27](#)

[Events calendar 2026-2027](#)

[Term Dates 2027-2028](#)



My Journey; My Future event

On Tuesday 20th October, as has been advertised in my blog over the last 2 weeks we are hosting an event as above. This is open to the whole school, and a range of providers will be here to showcase their offer and answer questions. The Preparation for Adulthood team in school will also have a table. It can be challenging thinking about your child/young person's future when they leave Percy Hedley School. Some of the PfA steering group staff from school will also be in attendance to guide and answer any questions.

[Here is the link to our resources.](#)

We are in the process of updating and will advise you when it is done.

Harvest Festival collection.



School is 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.

We have also had Reverend Sarah Moon in school over the last week doing assemblies with students.

THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN
SINCE 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 so 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 we 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 reduce the clothes that are suitable for teenage and young adults when we are short. We have an Amazon wish list where people can purchase items online and post direct to us.

THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN: The Alton Centre, 30 Bath Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5DG
T: 0191 222 1800 & info@peopleskitchen.co.uk www.peopleskitchen.co.uk

amazon
wishlist



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](#)



Parent Carer Forum.

What is it and what is the purpose?

“Parent Carer Forums are representative local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other service providers to ensure the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families”.

Paragraph 1:13 SEND Code of Practice 2015.

The NNPCF, National Network of Parent Carer Forums brings together the voices of individual PCF's across England.

Each Local Authority has a PCF. I thought that I would look at the relevant ones for our students, provide contact details and share anything they are advertising.



National Network of Parent Carer Forums

'Our Strength Is Our Shared Experience'

Newcastle

Newcastle Parent Carer Forum

Phone: 0191 2840480

Email: contact@newcastlepcf.co.uk

Website: newcastlepcf.co.uk

[Facebook:](#)

Gateshead

Gateshead Parent Carer Forum

Phone: 07865354162

Email: info@gatesheadparentcarerforum.co.uk

Website: gatesheadparentcarerforum.co.uk

[Facebook:](#)



🔔🌟 SAVE THE DATE 🌟🔔 We are thrilled to reveal we've been working on our SEND SHOWCASE which will be on FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER @ The Delta Hotel in Gateshead. 🎉

We have over 30 organisations confirmed with many more to be announced. The event is FREE with FREE PARKING.

Come along between 10am and 2pm and talk to over 30 SEND organisations who will be on hand to offer free advice, resources and support.

Confirmed organisations include:

★The Chronicle Sunshine Fund [The Sunshine Fund](#)

★Chaos & Calm Co [Chaos & Calm Co](#)

★Gateshead Council, including HINT and LINT; the Disabled Children's Team; Kinship Care Team; Transition Team; Commissioning team

★Health Watch [Healthwatch Gateshead](#)

★Stomping Grounds [Stomping Grounds Forest School](#)

★Daisy Chain [Daisy Chain Charity Superstores](#)

★Sensory Worx Occupational Therapy

★Smile Through Sport [SMILE Through Sport](#)

★Useful Vision [Useful Vision](#)

★SENDIASS [Axis Special Edu & Disabilities Info, Advice and Support Service](#)

★Kooth

★Children North East [Children North East](#)

★The Special Lioness [The Special Lioness](#)

★Choice Wellbeing CIC [Choice Wellbeing Service CIC](#)

★Caregivers Connected & Young Carers [Caregivers Connected Gateshead](#)

★North East Barbarians Wheelchair Rugby

★Hebburn Adult Day Care [Hebburn Day Care](#)

★SHOUT! Advocacy for young people aged 14-18

★Gateshead Family Hubs [Gateshead Family Hubs](#)

★The Rainbow Trust [Rainbow Trust Children's Charity](#)

★Specialised Escapes

North Tyneside:

NTPCF (North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum)

Phone: 07572 787044

Email: info@ntpcf.co.uk

Website: ntpcf.co.uk

[Facebook:](#)

Northumberland:

Northumberland Parent Carer Forum

Phone: 0191 2840480

Email: enquiries@npcf.co.uk

Website: www.npcf.co.uk

[Facebook:](#)

We have some very exciting news! On the 10th of November this year we are hosting our SEND Conference for parent carers in Northumberland. This event brings together SEND experts and professionals across multiple agencies including health & social care, education and our own SEND network of providers - plus Irwin Mitchell will be there giving free legal advice.

The day will be split into talks & workshops and a market hall where you can speak to agencies directly. We will be releasing exactly who will be there closer to the time but for now, save the date!

We have made it our mission to help as many of you get there as possible, Irwin Mitchell is very generously funding free county wide transport for anyone who needs it. We also have a dedicated quiet space, a wellbeing area and food and drink is being provided. The whole event is free, you do not need to book but registering your interest is very useful for us.

Run down:

NPCF Send Conference 10th November 2026

9:30 am - 2:30pm

FREE

[Register your interest here:](#)



Durham:

MCT Durham PCF

Email: info@mctdurham.co.uk

Website: mctdurham.co.uk

[Facebook:](#)

The Facebook group is accessible to parents only. I found the information on the conference on their website.

Event: MCT PARENT CARER CONFERENCES 2027

Date: Wednesday 5th May 2027

Time: 10am-2.30pm & 5.30pm-8pm

Venue: [Ramside Hall, Durham](#)

DETAILS TBC

Posted on: 15th September 2026

South Tyneside:

South Tyneside Parent Carer Forum

Phone: 07575 611667

Email: info@stpcf.org

Website: www.stpcf.org

[Facebook:](#)

Workshops 2026 - 2027

SENDIASS
South Tyneside

- 1 SEND Support Workshop** Monday 14th September
- FULLY BOOKED** **2 Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan Workshop** Monday 9th November
- 3 The Role of the SEND IAS Service Workshop** Monday 11th January
- 4 Exclusions & Part-Time Timetables Workshop** Monday 8th March
- 5 Appealing to the SEND Tribunal Workshop** Monday 10th May
- 6 What Does a Good EHC Plan look like Workshop** Monday 12th July

All sessions are 10am - 11.30am

Held at Inspire South Tyneside
27 Beach Road, South Shields

Sessions are kindly hosted by
South Tyneside
Parent Carer Forum

For more information and to book your place visit our website
www.southtynesidesendiass.co.uk

You can also access recorded webinars of the sessions by submitting a referral to the service via our website, and selecting 'Training Opportunities.'

Facebook / STsendiass Instagram / ST_sendiass

Sunderland:

Sunderland Parent Carer Forum

Phone: 07393 129858

Email: spcfoffice@sunderlandpcf.co.uk

Website: sunderlandpcf.co.uk

[Facebook:](#)

They seem to have regular activities. Some I saw on their Facebook page were weekly walks with coffee and chat, a parent carer wellbeing day. Those on the page as I write are recent ones. Join or follow their page for more information.

Hartlepool:

1 Hart 1 Mind 1 Future Parent Forum

Phone: 01429 863766

Email: 1hart1mind1future@gmail.com

Website: 1hart1mind1future.co.uk

[Facebook:](#)

In Hartlepool there is also Hartlepool Carers who complete parent carer assessments on behalf of the Local Authority. [Here is the link:](#)

Middlesbrough:

Middlesbrough SEND Parent Carer Forum

Email: middlesbroughpcf@outlook.com

[Facebook:](#)



Continuing with half term activities. Next week I will look at winter light trails which are accessible to all.

SEN Support Space:



October half term activities:

🎃 OCTOBER HALF TERM 🎃

● = FULLY BOOKED

● = LIMITED SPACES

● = SPACES AVAILABLE

24.10 SWIMMING ●

25.10 SOFT PLAY ●

27.10 TRAMPOLINING ●

28.10 INFLATABLES ●

29.10 PUMPKIN PICKING ●

[Book here](#)

Ability to Play

OCTOBER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Bookings for our October Holiday Programme are now OPEN!!!!

Spaces are limited and on a first come first served basis. So please book early to avoid missing out! Please check the dates of the sessions before booking!

To book you can either email bayley.milligan@northumberland.gov.uk or simply send a DM to this page stating who you would like to book on and which days.

You will receive a response that your place is secure.

Thank you for your continued support.



OCTOBER HALF TERM

 Monday 26th October Adult Multi-Sports @ Blyth Sports Centre 13:00pm - 14:30pm £4	 Monday 26th October Freestyle @ Northburn Sports Centre Under 10s 10:30am - 12:30pm Over 10s 1:30pm - 3:00pm £5	 Tuesday 27th October STAY ALL DAY @ Northburn Sports Centre 10:00am - 15:00pm £25
 Wednesday 28th October Youth Club @ Ashington Family Hub 17:00pm - 19:00pm £5	 Thursday 29th October Freestyle @ Northburn Sports Centre Under 10s 10:30am - 12:30pm Over 10s 1:30pm - 3:00pm £5	 Thursday 29th October STAY ALL DAY @ Concordia Leisure Centre 10:00am - 15:00pm £25
  Halloween Party @ Northburn Sports Centre Under 12s 13:00pm - 14:30pm Over 12s 15:00pm - 16:30pm £10		

To book, please email:
bayley.milligan@northumberland.gov.uk
Amy.Foggett01@northumberland.gov.uk
or visit our Facebook
@Ability2Play

Descriptions

Adult Multi-Sports - Mondays

Adult Multi Sports session runs every Monday at Blyth Sports Centre. We run lots of fun and engaging activities such as Basketball, Football, Cricket!

Freestyle Under 10s + Over 10s - Mondays + Thursdays

Freestyle sessions are run out of Northburn and include activities such as Castle building, Climbing, Crafts, Sports, Bikes + Messy Play! Change of clothes may be needed at the sessions

Stay All Day Northburn - Tuesdays - Packed Lunch Required

Working with partners such as NUFC Foundation this is a great opportunity to play loads of different games/sports, get involved in messy play + activities all day.

Youth Club - Wednesdays

Running out of the Family Hub in Ashington we offer a weekly youth club for Juniors to come along meet up with friends, play some pool, play some football and video games and have a fun night!

Stay All Day Concordia - Thursdays - Packed Lunch Required

A fun and engaging day at Concordia Leisure Centre with Tenpin bowling, Clip n Climb and a host of fun sports & games!

Under 12s Halloween Party - Parents must stay

Ending our Half Term with a Halloween Party in partnership with Seb + Olivia's Den, bring your best costume and get ready for a dance. A hot dog, chips and a drink will be provided as well.

Over 12s Halloween Party - Parents do not have to stay

Ending our Half Term with a Halloween Party in partnership with Seb + Olivia's Den, bring your best costume and get ready for a dance. A hot dog, chips and a drink will be provided as well.

Woodhorn Museum

This October Half Term Activity is NOT TO BE MISSED and UNDER 18s GO FREE

 Book now via [Woodhorn Museum](#) 's website

 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 - they're available to book now
-  FREE for under 18s (under 16s need to be accompanied)
-  £9-£11 for adults which includes a Woodhorn Annual pass and can be used to revisit the museum free of charge for a full year (there's lots going on - this is excellent value)

 Fully wheelchair accessible

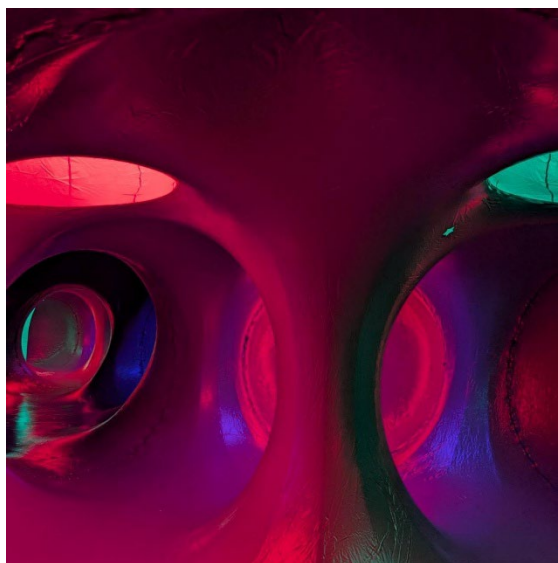
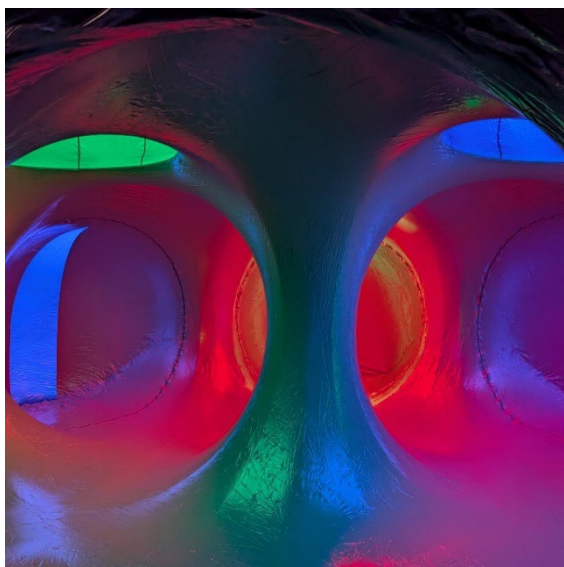
 Daily relaxed sessions available

 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 last year. [Post from North East Family Fun here:](#)



You can get annual passes for Northumberland museums and free carers allowed.

What's On in the North East for Kids & Teens this Weekend:

Copied from North East family fun page These are not SEN specific.

🍁 Sat 10 & Sun 11 October (North of Tyne) 🍁

10 Oct - FREE Sensory Storytelling for Babies at Berwick Library

10 Oct - Red Squirrel Awareness Day at Wallington

10 Oct - All at Sea at Live Theatre Newcastle

10 Oct - Art Class for 10-15 year olds at Laing Art Gallery

10 & 11 Oct - (ad) Halloween Spooktacular at Whitehouse Farm with Pumpkin Patch, Witches & Wizards School, Magic Show, Pirate Games, Walkway of Terror at more....(all included with admission)

10 & 11 Oct - (ad) Spooky Autumn at Science at Life

10 & 11 Oct - (ad) Mrs. Doubtfire at Newcastle Theatre Royal

10 & 11 Oct - Ghosts of History at Newcastle Castle

10 & 11 Oct - (ad) The Pumpkin Garden with Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt & Harvest Games at Alnwick Garden

10 & 11 Oct - (ad) Spookydorei Days at Lilidorei with Spooky Trails, Spooky Storytelling & Trick or Treat Bags

10 & 11 Oct - FREE Halloween Trails with FREE Sweet Treat at Plessey Woods, Druridge Bay and Tyne Riverside Country Parks

10 & 11 Oct - Make a Groaning Ghost, Hexham Skull Trail & Escape the Gaol Trail at Hexham Gaol (indoors and dog friendly)

[Find out more about these events + more ideas for things to do across October here](#)

🍁 Sat 10 & Sun 11 October (South of Tyne) 🍁

10 Oct - Apple Afternoon at Gibside with Pressing Demos & Tasting

10 Oct - FREE Create an Autumn Leaf Creature at Oriental Museum Durham

10 Oct - Saturday Art Club at Arts Centre Washington (8+)

10 Oct - Play with Matisse Family Craft Workshop at Preston Park & Museum

10 Oct - FREE Love Letters Card Making at South Shields Museum & Gallery

10 Oct - (ad) Pumpkin Nights at Spilmans

10 & 11 Oct - (ad) Family Fright Fest at Lintz Hall Farm with Stage Shows, Pumpkin Patch Walkabout Characters, Fairground Rides, Fun Mazes, Clown School, Wizard School, Games Barn and more...

10 & 11 Oct - (ad) Spilmans Pumpkin Festival

10 & 11 Oct - The Haunted Forest Trick or Treat Trail at Plotters' Forest (Raby Castle)

10 & 11 Oct - Spooky Skeleton Trail at High Force Waterfall

10 & 11 Oct - FREE Mark Making at Culture House Sunderland

10 & 11 Oct - Time by Luxmuralis at Durham Cathedral

10 & 11 Oct - Spooky VR Ride at Dorman Museum

11 Oct - FREE Drop In Gaming Afternoon (Video/Board/Card) for ages 7+ at Culture House Sunderland

11 Oct - Darlington Card Show at The Dolphin Centre

[Find out more about these events + more ideas for things to do across October here:](#)

As always, please check info with venues direct before heading up as events can change.



We are looking forward to our first official meeting of this academic year on **Wednesday 21st October from 9.45-10.45**. Your input is welcome and we will be planning events for the year ahead. If you are unable to join in person, we can set up a TEAMS link.

[A letter has been sent. The link 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](#)

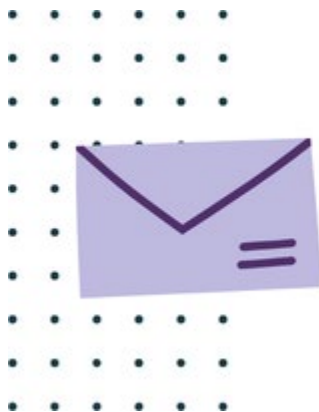


Quote of the Week

Tomorrow is World Mental Health Day so my quote is relevant

“Asking for help is the first step. You are more precious to this world than you’ll ever know”.

Lili Reinhart.



Contact details

Eileen Robinson: Family Liaison Officer

Email: e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 2161811 ext. 3260.