

Percy Hedley School's

Whole School Blog

News, Stars, My Journey My Future, World Mental Health Day & Cycling to London – from John & the PHS Team

Friday 16th October 2026,

Hello everyone, Happy Friday!

So much happening in school and so much to talk about this week, from the My Journey My Future (like a Careers Fayre) next week, to the guys that are cycling to London (virtually!) to World Mental Health Day in yellow, there's a lot going on. There's some funky trips too and lots of stars of course

The first half term of the year is often about establishing new classes, learning and arrangements, so there has naturally and rightly been a lot of that. But it really feels like that has happened the way it is supposed to, and things like lunchtimes, taxi-times, and just walking around the school, it very much feels like a nice place to be and spend time in. Here's to a lovely weekend in the still just-about nice autumn!

Cheers

John S

😊 from John & the PHS Team 😊

OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

Respect,
Teamwork
& Resilience

HOW THE CURRICULUM WORKS & WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US:

3 Super-Steering Groups deliver our Key Drivers through our curriculum.

The Key Drivers are Communication, Wellbeing and Independence

The Groups are Literacy, Physical Development & Personal Development

Attendance

The latest data from the Attendance Team

	9/10/26
WEEKLY PERCENTAGE	86.74
WEEKLY YEAR TO DATE	88.91
ON ROLL	147
PA - Missing more than 50-90% of school, current week	14.3%
PA - Missing more than 50-90% of school, rolling average for half term	21%
SPA - Missing more than 0 - 50% of school, current week	7.5%
SPA - Missing more than 0 - 50% of school, rolling average for half term	3.4%
2025/26 for comparison	89.5
2026/27 year to date	87.68
UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES	0.83%
UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES ROLLING AVERAGE	1.4%

Attendance this week was **88.74%**, an increase from last week's figure of **86.68%**.

Our overall attendance for the year to date currently stands at **89.91%**

It is encouraging to see attendance improving this week, particularly as we continue to experience the seasonal colds and illnesses that are common at this time of year. We know that some absences are unavoidable when children and young people are unwell. Where pupils are well enough to attend, every day in school makes a significant difference. Regular attendance supports learning, communication, independence, therapeutic interventions, social development and the opportunity to build and maintain important friendships.

*Our persistent absence rate this week was **14.29%**, which is lower than the current half-term rolling average of **21.09%**. This is a positive improvement, and we remain committed to working closely with families to support attendance and remove any barriers that may be affecting school attendance.*

As we move into the final week of what has been a long eight-week half term, we would like to encourage all families to maintain strong attendance right up to the

end of term. We often see attendance dip during the last few days before a break, but these days remain an important part of the curriculum and school experience. Learning continues until the very last day, and pupils also benefit from spending time with their friends, celebrating achievements and participating in end-of-term activities.

Please avoid keeping children at home for the last few days of term unless they are genuinely too unwell to attend. **Everyday counts, every lesson matters, and every day in school is an opportunity to learn!**

As always, our class teams and nursing team are available to offer advice and support. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school, please do get in touch and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us achieve the best possible attendance for all our pupils. Everyday matters, and together we can ensure that every child benefits from the opportunities school provides.

School Council News

"We meet every two weeks & discuss all sorts of important projects. We listen to what the students want & try our best to make this happen"

The Student Council make a difference in our school!

It's great to have such a good School Council, who are actually making a difference! It really fits in with our ethos and the vibe of the school too.

Thanks to them!



Our School Council Board!



Literacy

Becky, our Literacy Specialist Lead, leads a team that improve all aspects of literacy, including writing, oracy, reading, phonics, books & the library! Let's catch up with what the latest is from Becky.

This week we've got some updates from classes, so let's hear from Christian & Andy:

Christian's Library Visits: Making Choices

Christian's class look forward to their Monday morning visit to the school library where they listen to a story as a group and they then get to choose a book to read.

Nat and Alex stuck to the theme of 'Transport' and both wanted to hear stories about tractors. Masie loved the sensory book which had lots of describing words, textures to feel...and a mirror!





**GO
ALL
IN.**

National
Year of
Reading
2026

Happy Reading!





Physical Development



Everything that is in the world of physical development, including physio, hydro, MOVE, PE, HI, VI, OT & other key areas for us, including Outdoor Learning & many other aspects. Steph oversees this & it's always a priority!

CYCLING TO BIG BEN!!!!



As part of the school's initiative to promote healthy living and encourage daily movement and physical activity, the students in post 16 have been tasked to complete a cycling challenge from Percy Hedley School to Big Ben in London by the end of term. The journey equates to 288 miles in total. The students are tracking the distance and have currently achieved 100 miles already! An adapted cycle has

been set up in the social area to encourage active use and develop greater ownership towards their own physical health and mental wellbeing.



The challenge enables students to:

- Engage socially through teamwork
- Develop cardiovascular fitness
- Improve muscular strength and endurance
- Increase independence towards physical activity
- Understand the benefits of regular movement
- Work towards personal fitness and rehabilitation goals
- Create a healthy living culture within school





Cycling to Big Ben!



Personal Development & Wellbeing

One of the best things about the school and one of the most important for our pupils, PDW covers PSHE, Careers, Social Moral Spiritual & Cultural Issues, Online Safety, Behaviour, Wellbeing & similar areas. Jo pulls it all together.

SMSC – World Animal and Habitat Day

To celebrate World Animal Day and World Habitat Day, all pupils took part in an exciting Animal Encounters workshop on Monday. The visit gave pupils the opportunity to meet and handle a variety of fascinating animals, including a rat, two guinea pigs, a gecko, a skink, a millipede and two snakes.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and showed great curiosity as they learned about different animals, their habitats and how they are cared for. Many

pupils demonstrated confidence by interacting with animals they had never encountered before, while others took positive steps to overcome their fears.

Throughout the workshop, our pupils were excellent ambassadors for the school, consistently demonstrating our values of Respect, Resilience and Teamwork. They listened carefully to instructions, treated the animals with kindness and care, supported one another and showed resilience when trying new experiences.

A big thank you to the Animal Encounters team for providing such an engaging and memorable experience. It was wonderful to see every pupil participating and learning through this hands-on opportunity. We are incredibly proud of how well all pupils represented our school.





Jo Ferguson
 Personal Development Lead
j.ferguson@percyhedley.org.uk

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we can help our young people develop the confidence, resilience and independence they need to achieve their full potential

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at j.ferguson@percyhedley.org.uk, or speak to your child's class teacher



Wellbeing!



Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active, Take Notice, Give

Wellbeing is a Key Driver at PHS. This year we've increased both the size of the team and the space they have for the children. Let's hear about the latest exciting things that are going on there



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Last Friday, we celebrated World Mental Health Day by saying 'Hello Yellow' in support of the charity YoungMinds.

Throughout the day, students visited our new Wellbeing Zone to grab yellow accessories for the pop-up photobooth and took part in themed activities around the school. This was a fantastic way to spread some awareness and encouraged students to open-up and share stories and ideas about their own mental health experiences.

Through voluntary £1 donations and an incredibly popular afternoon cake sale, we raised a grand total of £100 for YoungMinds. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, donated, and helped us spend the day thinking about mental health!



What a lovely time!!!!!! And all good stuff to think and talk about!





PE

PE is great here and very important for a lot of the students – in fact all sorts of movement. They've already made a great start to the year, so let's see what Nathan has for us!

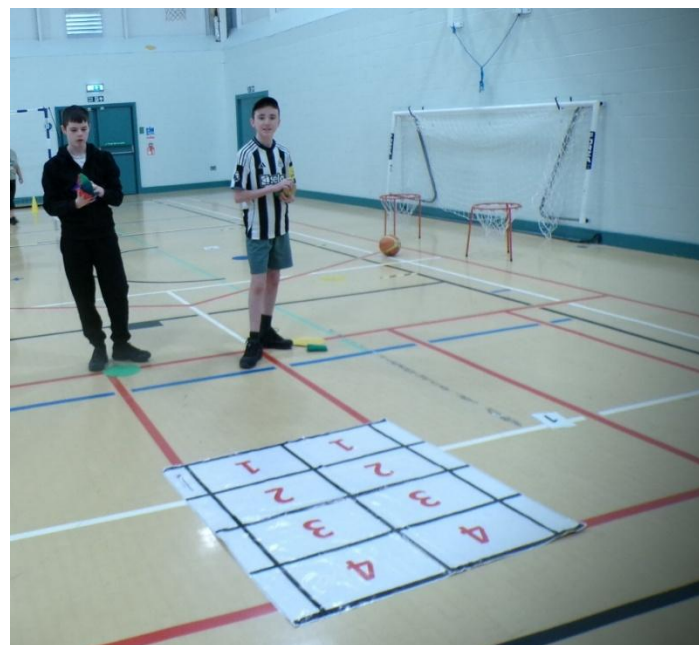


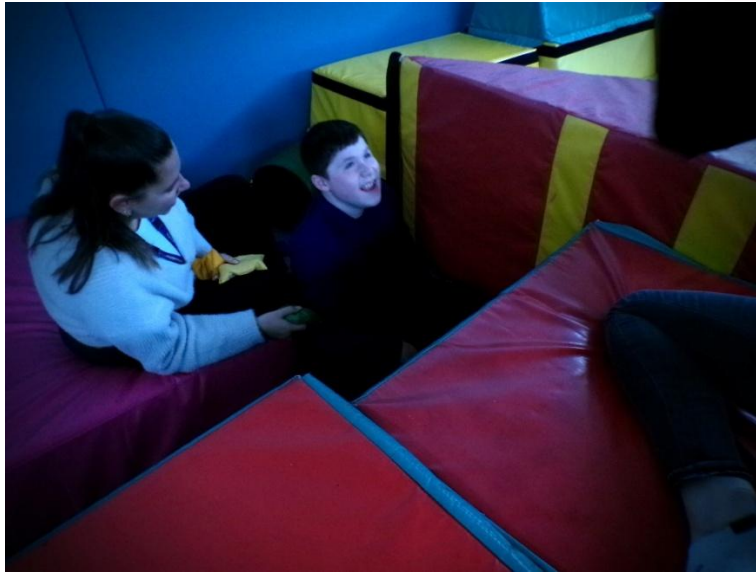
Semi- formal Pathway – Physical Wellbeing

We are now halfway through the first half of the Autumn Term, and it has been fantastic to see our Semi-Formal Pathway students continuing to settle into their Physical Wellbeing routines and engage with a range of activities.

This week, students took part in a variety of throwing activities, with the class divided into four smaller subgroups.







Students rotated around different stations, using a range of equipment and targets to make the activities fun, engaging and accessible for everyone.

Throwing Activities

Students used a variety of equipment, including bean bags, Boccia balls, basketballs and handballs, with each activity offering a different target and challenge.

Students practised throwing into nets and baskets, towards targets on the floor, and through or into hoops. Activities were adapted to provide different levels of challenge, allowing students to work at their own pace and experience success.

The activities helped students develop a range of physical skills, including hand-eye coordination, accuracy, control, concentration and spatial awareness.

Teamwork & Responsibility

It has been amazing to see students working together as a team throughout the session. Students have been encouraged to support one another, take turns and work cooperatively within their groups.

We have also been developing independence and responsibility by encouraging students to leave each station how they found it before moving on to the next activity.

At the end of the session, everyone contributed to tidying away the sports equipment, working together to make sure everything was returned to its correct place. This is an important part of our Physical Wellbeing sessions, helping students understand that looking after our environment and equipment is a shared responsibility.

Just some highlights from some of the students:

Sienna has been doing an amazing job helping to demonstrate the stations at the beginning of the lesson.

Sonny has been showing great teamwork by helping other students tidy up the stations at the end of the lesson.

Isaac has been making great progress with his willingness to work with other and improve his catching skills.

It has been brilliant to see students becoming familiar with their routines and showing enthusiasm, engagement and enjoyment during their sessions.

Well done to everyone for another fantastic week of Physical Wellbeing! 🙌



The Marvellous Early Years Ducklings!

We have a great Early Years class, The Ducklings, with a great area to learn & play in. Kate shares with us each week what they've been doing! Hope you enjoy the words and pictures



This week we have continued exploring our story Leaf Man and learning all about Autumn.



We revisited some of the sensory experiences from last week and were surprised to find that some of the activities we weren't so keen on before became favourites this week, especially the fans that helped us experience the wind blowing Leaf Man along his journey!



During Outdoor Learning, we went on a hunt to look for Leaf Man and collected lots of autumn treasures along the way. We gathered leaves, sticks and grass, then used these alongside glitter and PVA glue to create our own autumn pictures.



Our highlight of the week was definitely the Animal Encounters Workshop! We were all fantastic at sitting patiently and waiting for our turn to meet the animals.

Everyone showed lots of care when stroking and holding them. We were very gentle and brave throughout the experience, and every child had a turn touching at least one animal!





Carr's Stars are back in the blog!



What a fantastic first half term we've had in 2CC! Everyone has settled brilliantly into our new class, making new friends and growing in confidence every day.

We've loved exploring all things autumn, watching the weather change and noticing the leaves turning beautiful shades of red, orange and yellow.

Our stories have inspired lots of exciting learning. After reading Little Hedgehog's Big Day, we worked together to build a brand-new school for Hedgehog. We also enjoyed Stanley's Stick, using our imaginations to turn sticks into all sorts of exciting things, including boats, fishing rods and even lightsabres!

In maths, we've been busy counting, comparing and building. One of our favourite challenges was making towers and seeing whose was the tallest.

We've also been getting creative with paint, exploring different ways to make marks using sticks and leaves. While we enjoyed painting with natural materials, painting with our hands was definitely the class favourite!

One of the biggest highlights of the half term was a special animal visit. We were excited to meet, touch and even hold some amazing animals. Our favourite was the "silly old snake" from The Gruffalo, which caused lots of excitement!

It's been a wonderful start to the year, full of learning, friendship, creativity and fun. We're so proud of how well everyone has settled into 2CC





Work experience at Alnwick Castle!

Matthew's experience working with the Grounds Maintenance Team at Alnwick Castle

Matthew recently completed a work placement with the Grounds Maintenance Team at Alnwick Castle, gaining valuable experience in a real working environment.

During the placement, Matthew helped care for the castle grounds while developing important skills such as teamwork, communication, time management and independence. The experience gave them a greater understanding of workplace expectations and helped build their confidence.

Matthew said “I like working at Alnwick Castle because it was good. My favourite part was cleaning the signs until they were clean and shiny.”

Jake, a member of the grounds maintenance team said “Matthew showed a positive attitude to work and was eager to make a start with jobs that he was asked. He did them very well and was especially good at cleaning the signs around the castle with spray and cloth.”

A huge thank you to the team at Alnwick Castle for providing such a welcoming and supportive opportunity. Experiences like this play an important role in preparing our students for future employment and adulthood.



Well done Matthew – love Alnwick Castle too!!!!



Therapy Star of the Week!



This week, with Beth! Who is nominating.....



FAITH!

& BENJAMIN!



Communication!

Faith has recently been exploring different ways to spend her time during social times, and it was so lovely to see her choosing to share her enjoyment of reading with Benjamin from Andy's class. Faith is a fantastic reader, and it was great to see her using this strength to connect with other students in post 16



THERAPY STARS!!!!



Gardening Club with Ben!



Or, Horticulture News, if you want to be posh! Anyway, great things are happening in this area of school, so let's hear Ben's latest update



Loving Horticulture News/Garden Club!



Nursing News!

The school is full of different teams working together for the good of the pupils, and we have a lot of different disciplines & types of people working here. It's really good that we have nurses & HCAs



Winter often brings an increase in coughs, colds and other respiratory infections. We have come up with some Top Tips for staying healthy over the next few months.

Wash your hands regularly using soap and water, especially before eating and after using the toilet.

Catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue, then put the tissue in the bin and wash hands.

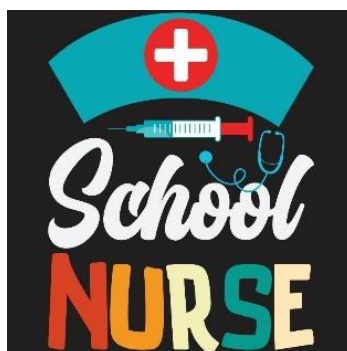
Keep rooms ventilated where possible, while making sure everyone stays warm.

Encourage rest when you are feeling unwell.

Stay up to date with recommended vaccinations. Speak to your GP or pharmacist if you are unsure which vaccinations your child may be eligible for.

If your child is unwell, consider whether they are well enough to manage their usual activities or if they need to stay home. The School nursing team is available if you have any questions.

School Nursing Team



Go Nurses!

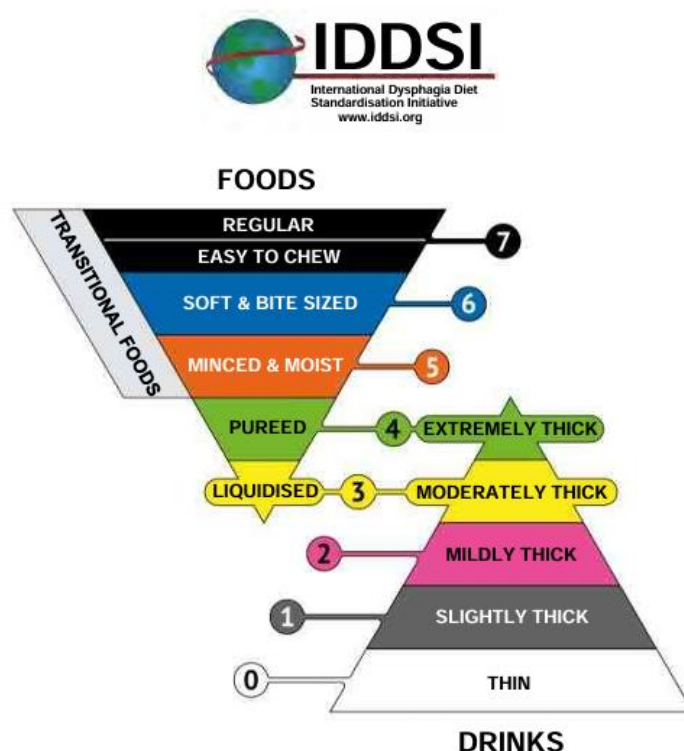


Eating, Drinking & Swallowing – with Jennie! Part Three!

Jennie is our Dysphagia Lead, working across the Foundation and co-ordinating the work of the Dysphagia Group of Speech & Language Therapists

Jennie is planning to explain what IDDSI is over the first few weeks of this new part of the blog, and then include some recipes, top tips etc as time goes on. Excellent! Let's hear again from Jennie in this new section and see what it's all about this week!

Eating, Drinking and Swallowing (Dysphagia)



Across the world we use the same words to describe food and drinks that have been modified because someone has eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties. This means that we all understand each other and the food or drink is the same no matter where you go or who makes it.

The dysphagia trained Speech and Language Therapists carry out assessments to work out what the safest foods and drinks are for our students and our excellent kitchen team make the food to the right consistencies.

Each week we will focus on a different level to explain what it all means, so we can work together to make sure we get it right for our students.

Any questions for the dysphagia SaLTs the email address is

PHS.salt@percyhedley.org.uk

TRANSITIONAL FOODS

These are foods that start as one texture and change to another when moisture is added or when the temperature changes. Biting is not needed and minimal chewing is required as the tongue can break these foods up. Transitional foods can be used to practice chewing skills and students who have a level 5 minced and moist diet, level 6 soft and bite-sized diet or level 7 easy to chew diet might be assessed by the Speech and Language Therapist to see if they can manage these.

Examples of transitional foods include:

‘Bite and dissolve’ crisps such as Skips, Wotsits and Pom-Bears

Wafers

Some biscuits e.g. rich tea and shortbread

Chocolate buttons

Ice cream

How do I know if the food is ‘transitional’?

Take a 1.5cmx1.5cm piece of the food

Add 1ml of water

Wait 1 minute

Use light pressure on a fork to squash the food

The food should be completely squashed, broken apart, and does not return to its previous shape

Any questions for the Dysphagia SaLTs the email address is PHS.salt@percyhedley.org.uk



Behaviour for Learning (BfL)

Aylisha and Corin have developed the BfL Team and work on supporting our pupils all the time, in all situations. They've been joined by Nicola, Nat, Sarah & Andrea to make a really important team for the school

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact the BfL Team

aylisha.holland@percyhedley.org.uk

c.orr@percyhedley.org.uk

☎ Call: 0191 216 1811

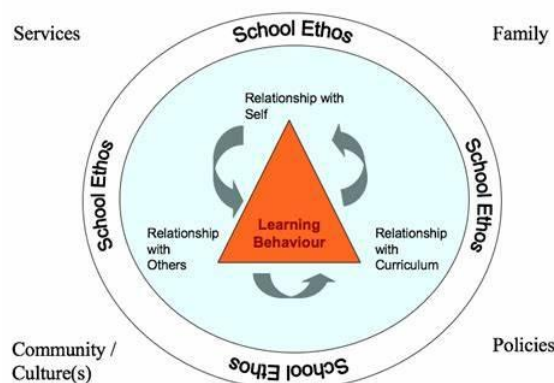


Figure 1: Behaviour for Learning conceptual framework



Preparation for Adulthood with Hannah

PfA is a priority for the us and always will be. Hannah & the PfA Team use this space to tell us what they've been working on, and it's always central to our mission



PfA Lead: Hannah Fuller Hannah.fuller@percyhedley.org.uk, Careers lead: Louise Finlay L.finlay@percyhedley.org.uk or Family Liaison Officer: Eileen Robinson e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk

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



Mobile Phones in schools!

We've been working on a new policy to reflect what's going on in the country about this, and what the government is telling us

Please do have a read

Rebecca is happy to answer any questions about it at all

Get Rebecca on r.fletcher@percyhedley.org.uk

Mobile Phones in School procedure

To maintain a safe, focused and supportive learning environment, all students must hand their mobile phones to a member of staff at the start of the school day. Phones will be stored securely and returned to students at the end of the school day.

The school recognises that many students rely on mobile phones for their journey to and from school. Students may therefore bring their phones to school for transport and travel purposes, but they must be handed in immediately upon arrival.

Exemptions and Reasonable Adjustments

The school acknowledges that some students may require access to a mobile device during the school day as part of their individual needs. Reasonable adjustments will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may include:

- Medical needs, such as the management of diabetes through mobile phone-linked monitoring systems.
- Communication needs identified within an EHCP or other support plan.
- Therapeutic interventions recommended by healthcare professionals or therapists.
- Activities that support Preparation for Adulthood outcomes, where mobile phone use has been identified as an appropriate tool to develop independence, travel training, communication skills or community access.

Any exemption must be agreed by the school in partnership with the student, parents/carers and relevant professionals. Arrangements will be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain appropriate and supportive of the student's needs.

Use of Phones Under an Agreed Exemption

Students with an approved exemption may only use their phone for the specific purpose agreed with parents/carers, a medical plan and the DSL. Where this is the case parents/carers will be invited into school to discuss the exemption and an individual contract will be in place to safeguard all pupils and staff. The school reserves the right to review, amend or withdraw arrangements where use is no longer appropriate or where there are safeguarding concerns.

Unauthorised Use

Students must not use mobile phones during the school day without prior authorisation. Unauthorised use, including photography, recording, messaging, social media access or gaming, may result in the phone being confiscated and further action being taken in line with the school's behaviour policy.

This approach reflects current Department for Education expectations that schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, while making appropriate adjustments for pupils with SEND, disabilities or medical needs.



School Lunches



Muy bueno!!!!!! Spanish Day!

Please find the menus here: [School Meals – Percy Hedley School](#)

Unless your child is in receipt of Free School Meals or Bursary, please ensure your iPay account is topped up before meals are taken. Thank you for your understanding & continued support in helping us to provide good quality, safe & nutritious meals for our children.

If you have any questions or need support with your iPay account, please don't hesitate to contact the school office



Exams with Kat!

Welcome to all returning students and new students that joined new class teams.

With the new academic year under way, the exams team is starting the full year cycle once more. Updating details, preparing the years schedule of qualifications, and setting up support and information for teaching staff and students. Updated regulations have been circulated by JCQ (Joint Council of Qualifications) which will be available on the Percy Hedley website under the exams section



Safeguarding – this week, safe eating



Aylisha is our Safeguarding Officer, Rebecca is the DSL. Tracy and Corin round out a great DSL Team, with others like Carla, Lizzie & Vicky involved too in other aspects of safeguarding. Let's hear about this week's important topic from Rebecca

Safe Eating In Early Years

As part of our ongoing work within our Early Years Department, we have been working on our Safe Eating in Early Years Guidance. This work follows the updates in the early Years Framework, and work going on across the foundation to training our staff for Benedicts Law and our new Allergens Policy.

To support safe eating in the Early Years our staff within this department have completed training with Clennell Solutions to ensure their practice is up to date. They have also completed the Food Hygiene Level 2 course and staff have the Paediatric first aid certificates.

Our safe eating practices are over seen throughout the school by our SALT team, the nursing team and the dysphagia lead to ensure the highest standard of practice. Pupils have meal time management plans to help our staff to ensure that our pupils needs are adhered to at all times.

Our updated guidance can be found on the Early Years section of our Safeguarding webpage, or at the link below.



If you would like any more information in this area you can read the guidance [here](#)

As ever if there is anything that the DSL Team can help with, or if you have any queries or questions at all, then please don't hesitate to contact r.fletcher@percyhedley.org.uk or aylisha.holland@percyhedley.org.uk for anything like at all that you think is, or even may be, related to safeguarding



Safeguarding is a lot of different things!

Online Safety – this week, age checks online

Please do tell us what you feel would be helpful in the Online Safety blog, and the team will look into it. We know what a priority this is for many of you, so let's hear from Lizzie

If you would like support or advice about online safety, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

[View the online safety blogs here](#)

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



No-Spray School

Just a reminder that we're a no-spray school. This means pupils & staff should not wear perfumes or aerosol body sprays, as these can cause serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, for some members of our community. Roll-on deodorants & water-based sprays are fine to use. Thank you for your support in keeping our school a safe place for everyone.



Attendance!



Attendance Matters



Thank you for your support with attendance, an area of national scrutiny. Here's Kelly with an important reminder

The school day begins promptly at 9:00am. Any student arriving after this time will be marked as late unless there is a pre-arranged appointment and an absence form has been submitted in advance

If you have any questions, please contact 37elly.richardson@percyhedley.org.uk

Thank you, as always, for your continued support

A brief reminder about how to contact the school for reporting an absence

Parents & carers have a responsibility to notify the school if their child is going to be absent. Please note this is daily for each day the child is absent. This may be via

A note in the school diary if the absence is known in advance eg medical appointment

A telephone call to the school office before 9.30 on the first day of absence if the absence was unplanned, eg illness

Email to class teacher or PHSattendance@percyhedley.org.uk before 9:30 on the day of the absence

As always, any queries feel free to reach out to kelly.richardson@percyhedley.org.uk

Thanks for your support and partnership in this crucial area



Parent/Carer Code of Conduct



Our Parent/Carer Code of Conduct is on the website here: [Parent and Carers Area – Percy Hedley School](#). Most schools have these, so please do have a read – they aren't used very often. Thanks for your support with it – generally but also in most things that arise every day



Friends of PHS – the FoPHS!

A huge thank you to all the FoPHS for their time, commitment & support with projects, ideas & all sorts. You're such an important part of the school. Here's the latest message

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

[FoPHS News and Updates 2026](#)

[FoPHS News and Updates 2025](#)

All parents, carers & staff are members of the FoPHS by default. Benefits include insurance for events, links with their partners & training for parents, carers & staff. The meetings are half termly



Why don't you join! The Fabulous Friends are always looking for volunteers for events! If you can offer any support, please contact Eileen at e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk



Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) – with Tracy and the Team!



Dear Families

A questionnaire was sent out yesterday to all parents/carers via email from the school office as part of our work towards the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)

The LPPA team would be very grateful if you could spare approximately 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire and return it by Monday 19th October. This will allow us sufficient time to collate and analyse the responses, which will help inform our future priorities and objectives.

Responses may be submitted anonymously; however, if you choose to include your child's name, this will help us identify specific areas of school where further improvements or support may be beneficial.

Thank you in advance for your time and support. Your feedback is invaluable and plays an important role in helping us continue to strengthen our partnership with families.

Have a good weekend.

Tracy and the LPPA Team

If you prefer to contact me on an individual basis my email address is:

t.smithson@percyhedley.org.uk

Please get in touch with Tracy and she will be happy to respond to any queries, suggestions about the LPPA and other issues for parents



AND NOW...



STARS OF THE WEEK!

THAT REFLECT OUR SCHOOL VALUES!



EARLY YEARS!

This week our star of the week is from Early Years and it's...

ROWAN!

Resilience!



Rowan is Early Years Star of the Week! He showed kindness, patience and resilience during the animal encounters workshop. He was extremely gentle and caring when holding and stroking the animals and waited sensibly for his turn throughout the session. He managed his feelings well and returned to class calmly and sensibly. It was wonderful to see Rowan showing such respect and care for the animals. Well done, Rowan!

STAR!!!



SEMI-FORMAL PATHWAY STAR OF THE WEEK!

HEYAN!

Teamwork!



This week's Semi-Formal Star of the Week goes to Heyan! Heyan has been fantastic at turn taking and helping his friends (and the adults!) when playing board games together. He makes sure everyone gets their turn and is very happy for others if they win. His favourite game is Snakes and Ladders!

Well done, Heyan!



Respect

Zak Y for showing kindness and respect towards his classmates. He consistently makes others feel welcome, included, and valued within the classroom!

Resilience

Logan for solving a problem at breaktime and inviting other students to play a game with him!

Jo Bromby for his excellent resilience and determination with his DT models and Science models!

Sinead Marsden for excellent effort in her lessons!

Teamwork

Edward for his fantastic teamwork with Aurora in the work experience on the farm!



Lisa's POST-16 STARS!!!

We love our sixth form! Let's hear who's been great down there this week? Let's see!

Resilience

Faith was so brave during Animal Encounters. She was out of her comfort zone but was very mature and calm with the animals. Very well done!!!

Ellie has done some amazing artwork. Brilliant!!!

Michael used his VOCA to order pizza in Greggs. Fantastic!!!

Ryley has been using his VOCA and showed great resilience when things got tough. Amazing!!!

James has coped very well with a tricky week. Well done!!!

Nikhit and Brandon for overcoming obstacles and working hard in engineering. Awesome!!!

Daniel G for doing independent work about who to ask for help at college!

Teamwork

Lucas A for involving and encouraging a peer in PFA lesson!



Makaton Signs of the Week with Julie!

Every Sunday Julie prepares a message for the whole school on Makaton signs that are current and relevant to the time of year. We reproduce that here so that you can do the same thing at home if that suits you – or just for you to learn a few signs each week. Hope it works for you! Here's Julie

Makaton signs of the week 12th October 2026

Animal Encounters!

On Monday 12th October we have Animal Encounters visiting school to help us celebrate World Animal Day.



this is the sign for animal

Here are the links to Singing Hands YouTube videos demonstrating a whole range of animal signs.

Farm animals:

<https://youtu.be/sNm4z3mumHQ?si=26smq4NIA2azof0Y>

Chicken, cow, donkey, goat, horse, pig, sheep

Wild animals:

https://youtu.be/YCnwpA_SW5s?si=81znmEoXSFweBY10

Crocodile, elephant, giraffe, gorilla, hippo, monkey, snake, tiger, zebra

Pets:

https://youtu.be/cSlfHBj3fzo?si=iPTSrPLKP_ao2aPD

Pet, bird, cat, dog, fish, guinea pig, hamster, lizard, rabbit, snake, tortoise

Woodland animals:

https://youtu.be/d01s4zgCq7g?si=fLb0qS6TgUvV7_mH

Badger, deer, fox, hedgehog, mole, mouse, owl, rat, squirrel

And last but not least, here are Singing Hands signing the story 'Dear Zoo'

https://youtu.be/XoHn8rLj9pc?si=T-5vRRQ2tSOv8_YW

Keep signing!



Julie



AND FINALLY...OUR THING THAT'S LIKE A CAREERS FAYRE!!!!

Percy Hedley School

My Journey My Future

Providers Event

Tuesday 20th October 2026

From 2pm - 6pm

Percy Hedley School, Killingworth

Please RSVP to:
l.finlay@percyhedley.org.uk

We are delighted to invite pupils and parents/carers to our whole-school event on Tuesday 20th October offering the opportunity to meet a range of education, training

and social care providers, explore future pathways and ask questions regarding options and support available beyond school

It is increasingly important for young people and their families to explore a range of potential pathways and understand the different opportunities and support available from a variety of organisations. With the current challenges surrounding the availability of suitable placements and funding for young people with special educational needs across the region; particularly within Post 16 and Post 19 provision, early awareness and consideration of alternative options can play an important part in planning for the future

We understand that planning for your child or young person's future beyond Percy Hedley School can sometimes feel challenging. Our Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) Team will be available throughout the event to provide information, offer guidance and answer any questions you may have

We hope that the event will provide families and young people with a valuable opportunity to explore the options available, make useful connections with providers and feel better informed when considering future pathways and next steps.

We are also able to offer support to enable students to remain after school until 6pm allowing parents to attend the event. Please contact Eileen Robinson or myself if you wish to discuss this option further, on the contact details below:

e.robinson@percyhedley.org.uk or l.finlay@percyhedley.org.uk on (0191) 2161811

.....from John & the Team here at PHS

Our Key Drivers

Communication, Wellbeing, Independence

