Percy Hedley School's

Family Information and FOPHS News

Today is Children in Need and it is fantastic that our student council has been involved in this important event. More information will follow, but there is a Pudsey themed hamper being raffled, face painting and an optional non uniform day. Donations will be sent to this very worthy charity. Thanks to everyone who supported.



We still have poppies and wristbands available in the school office for donations to the Royal British Legion's Annual Poppy Appeal.



What's coming up?

I hope this section of my newsletter helps. My aim is to ensure that you know what events are happening in school, enabling communication about them with your children and alerting you to those which are for parents. With the new pathways I will include the teacher initials too.

Monday 16th November: Author Jodie James visiting school
Monday 23 - Friday 27th November: Non-fiction week in school
Friday 27th November: Themed menu for St Andrew's Day
Wednesday 2nd December 9.45-10.45: FoPHS Meeting
Monday 7th December: Christingle
Wednesday 9th December: Two events: Both 14-15.00

- Classes KB & LT/HL: Stay and Play
- Classes BE, CH, HF & AH: Winter Assembly

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

Student Events in school
Parents welcome
Special menu for school lunch

FoPHS
Friends of
Percy Hedley School

School Calendars

Term dates 2026-27

Events calendar 2026-2027

Term dates 2027-2028



Online Safety

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

Information

Unique:

With thanks to parent Helen for sharing information with me:

Unique is a charity for those affected by rare chromosome or gene disorders. Their mission is to inform, support and advocate for those affected by rare chromosome and gene disorders and raise public awareness.

Helen alerted me to some webinars they are running; one I recognise as being a MENCAP one which I often recommend and have attended. The workshops they facilitate are for their members.

Families with a diagnosis of a rare gene or chromosome disorder are welcome to contact us about joining – they can either fill in the registration information here Join Us - Unique or email at help@rarechromo.org . Many of our members have children with a learning disability or developmental delay. It is free to join and provides access to regular newsletters, private members Facebook café and other opportunities to connect with others, as well as any research opportunities that may come up. We have over 35,000 members worldwide and always appreciate opportunities to raise awareness

An important thing for parents/carers to consider and it is scary. Knowledge is power; make sure that you are aware of what you need to know. I found this online.

Bringing Us Together

What happens when you can no longer provide the care and support your loved one needs? How can you start preparing now, and what arrangements can you put in place to help protect their future?

Join us for our FREE online session, 'Planning for the Future of Your Loved one,' delivered by guest speaker Rhiannon Gogh, Chartered Financial Planner, Author, Parent Carer and Founder of Carer's Academy.

In this workshop, Rhiannon will share practical options for you to explore. You will also meet others in a similar position, caring for loved ones. Full details below. ⬇️

📅Wednesday 9th December 2026

🕙10.30am to 12.30pm

💻Online (Book via Eventbrite at tinyurl.com/lovedonefuture)



This practical session will help you think through -

- future care

- housing and support

- financial and legal planning including wills, trusts,

- inheritance, decision-making, benefits and savings.

You'll receive a practical planning worksheet to help you identify your priorities and will leave the workshop with three clear next steps for your own family's circumstances.

There will also be time for questions and discussion.

For further info and help with booking, please email tony@bringingustogether.org.uk.

Gateshead Parent Carer Forum

Gateshead families may be interested.

SEND SHOWCASE on FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER @ The Delta Hotel in Gateshead. Free event and Free parking.

🎉⭐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

⭐Newcastle Barbarians Wheelchair Rugby Newcastle 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 Specialised Escapes





Activities

Activities

Woodhorn Museum: Festive Tales

A few things families said about Festive Tales last year...

"Santa was so good, welcoming and made it very magical. The staff were great with the kids and made it really special."

"It's days like this that make me proud to be a pitman! Santa was 1st class, calm, gentle, even magical. Lovely to see."

We're looking forward to welcoming families to Woodhorn this Christmas for Festive Tales - a magical opportunity for little ones to meet Santa. share their Christmas wishes and enjoy a special gift to take home.

Make a day of it with festive crafts, exploring the museum, gift shopping and outdoor play, all included with your ticket.

🎄Weekends throughout December and 21-24 December

🎅Tickets are £10 per child. Adults go free with Annual Pass Admission.

⭐Relaxed sessions available every day.

For more info and to book - see link here





LD Northeast

An award-winning local charity supporting people with lived experience of learning disabilities.



Join us for Christmas crafts, a visit to Santas grotto and a festive treat.
for more details or to book a place please contact laura.straker@ldne.org.uk or message via social media.

Want to know more about this group?
Website: https://ldne.org.uk/

Facebook group:

SEND Family Fun Day by the Ellis Lake Foundation

One of our parents, Tracy asked me to share:

A magical Christmas experience where everyone is welcome! ❤️‍🩹

Christmas is a special time of year, and at the Ellis Lake Foundation, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to experience the magic of Christmas in an environment where they feel welcome, included and supported.

We're delighted to invite families to our SEND Christmas Celebration, a festive event specially designed for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), along with their families.

Our aim is simple: to create a welcoming, relaxed and inclusive Christmas experience where families can enjoy themselves, make memories and celebrate together.

🎁 What's Happening?

We've got a wonderful selection of festive activities planned, with something for everyone to enjoy!

🎅 Meet Santa – Enjoy a special visit with Father Christmas and experience a little Christmas magic!

🐰 Small Animals with Pony Parties – Meet some adorable small animals in a lovely interactive experience.

🎶 Christmas Carol Singing by True Colours – Get into the festive spirit with some wonderful Christmas carols performed by True Colours.

🌈 Sensory Area by Sensory Shuttle – Unite Club – Explore a dedicated sensory space provided by Sensory Shuttle by Unite Club, offering an engaging sensory experience for children with different needs.

🍪 Biscuit Decorating – Get creative decorating some delicious festive treats.

🎨 Christmas Crafts – Enjoy a variety of fun, hands-on festive activities.

🚂 The Polar Express – Sit back, relax and enjoy a Christmas favourite.

🎯 Switch-Adapted Nerf Range – An accessible activity designed to allow more children to join in the fun.

☕ Festive Refreshments – Enjoy coffee, mince pies and a little Christmas cheer!

❤️ An Inclusive Christmas for Everyone

We understand that traditional Christmas events can sometimes feel overwhelming or difficult to access for children with additional needs.

That's why we're creating an event where inclusion, accessibility and understanding are at the heart of everything we do.

There's no pressure to take part in every activity. Families are welcome to enjoy the event at their own pace, choosing the activities that suit their children best.

Whether it's meeting Santa, spending time with the animals, enjoying the sensory area, listening to Christmas carols or simply spending time together, we want everyone to feel part of the celebrations.

Every child is different, and that's what makes our SEND community so special.

♿ Accessibility

Our event will take place at the Ellis Lake Foundation office at Quorum Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne.

♿ Lift access is available.

❤️ Families with wheelchairs and mobility equipment are welcome.

🌈 A dedicated sensory area will be available.

🎯 Accessible activities, including our switch-adapted Nerf range.

👨‍👩‍👧 Parents and carers are welcome to support their children throughout the event.

🎄 Families can enjoy activities at their own pace.

If your family has any specific accessibility requirements, please get in touch before attending so we can discuss how best to support you.

🎄 Making Christmas Memories Together

This event is about so much more than Christmas activities.

It's about bringing families together, celebrating our wonderful SEND community and giving children the opportunity to experience the excitement and magic of Christmas in a welcoming and understanding environment.

We're incredibly grateful to Pony Parties, True Colours and Sensory Shuttle by Unite Club for helping us bring even more festive magic to this special celebration.

We can't wait to welcome you for an event filled with festive fun, Christmas smiles, wonderful experiences and a little bit of magic! 🎅 ❤️‍🩹

🎟️ Spaces are limited, so please book your places in advance.

The Ellis Lake Foundation Team

Making a difference, one family at a time.

Find out more here

https://events.humanitix.com/send-christmas-family-fun-day-by-ellis-lake-foundation

Little Treasures Autism Charity: Durham area

North East support for autistic adults and children, we have various support groups and social events

Website: https://www.littletreasures.org.uk/

Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/2018community


LITTLE TREASURES
AUTISM CHARITY
1178397
Ferryhill Youth Group
Christmas Party!
Friday 27th November
5.00pm – 7.00pm
Dene Bank Institute, Ferryhill DL17 8PP
£5 per child
Festive Crafts
Fun Games
Pizza & Treats
Meet Santa!
Booking is essential — book via our website or the Space by Wix app.


Fun For All The Family!
LITTLE TREASURES
AUTISM CHARITY
1178397
Making Brighter Days Together
FRAMWELLGATE MOOR
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday 5th December
1pm - 3pm
Framwellgate Moor Community Centre, Framwellgate Moor DH1 5BL
Our First Ever Framwellgate Christmas Party!
A special visit from Santa
A magical surprise for every child
Messy Play Christmas Activities
Festive Crafts
Bouncy Castle Fun
£5 per child
Inclusive Supportive Fun
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL
Book via our website or on the Space by Wix app.
Creating Inclusive Memories This Christmas


Made with AI
LITTLE TREASURES
AUTISM CHARITY
PETERLEE
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday 5thDecember
10.30am – 12.30pm
The Guide House, Peterlee, SR8 5UD
Booking is essential – please reserve your place early!
Christmas Cards
Festive Stockings
Reindeer & Snowman Paper Chains
Popsicle Stick Christmas Trees
Paper Plate Santa & Angel
£5 per child
Everyone Welcome!
Seasonal Fun!
Take Home Your Creations!


Support Include Empower
LITTLE TREASURES
AUTISM CHARITY
1178397
A Brighter Tomorrow Together
USHAW MOOR
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday 12th December
2:00pm - 4:00pm
The Hut, Chestnut Grove Ushaw Moor DH7 7LJ
£5 per child
Festive Crafts
Christmas Games
Festive Fun
Seasonal Treats
The Hut
Join us for a fun-filled festive afternoon!
Children
Friends
Community
Brighter Futures
Book your place via the Little Treasures website or Spaces by Wix app.
Support
Include
Empower



Discovery Museum: Canny Christmas Show

Step into a black-and-white world of festive fun, where cheeky Geordie elves create Christmas chaos

Show times

10am, 11am, 12 noon, 1.30pm & 2.30pm.

Show duration: 40 minutes

Saturday 12 December

Sunday 13 December

Saturday 19 December

Sunday 20 December. There is a relaxed performance at 14.30

[Find out more here]

Grace House North East

We know that busy, noisy Christmas events aren't always easy for every child. That's why we're bringing you something a little different this year! ✨

Our Sensory Santa sessions are designed with children's sensory needs in mind, giving them the time, space and freedom to enjoy meeting Santa in a way that feels comfortable for them.

No pressure, no rushing, just a relaxed, welcoming experience where children can be themselves and families can enjoy some special Christmas moments together. 🥰

And of course, siblings are very welcome to share the festive fun! 🎄

🐣Spaces are limited, so please book your timeslot early!

Date: Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd December

15 minutes per slot

£10 deposit per child

📌If you are bringing more than one child, you only need to book one timeslot. After booking, we will contact you to confirm how many children will be attending.

Additional children are £10 per child.

👉Book your Sensory Santa session: https://bookwhen.com/gracehouse



North Tyneside Disability Forum:

📣NTDF Under 18s After School Club 📣

Every Wednesday during school term time

Drop in session from 3:30-6pm so you can come along after school

£2 donation per session



Roskai

Toy Shop: Unit B, Earsdon Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE27 0HH

I saw this and wondered if it might interest our families.

Book a visit for SEND Children

Introducing SEND Sundays with our first one this Sunday 15th November ^^

We know that visiting a toy shop can sometimes feel overwhelming for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), which is why we offer bookable visits designed with your child in mind.

At Roskai, we create a welcoming, relaxed environment where children can explore at their own pace, free from pressure and surrounded by understanding and support. Whether your child loves sensory toys, has specific interests, or simply needs a quieter shopping experience, our friendly team will be there to help make their visit enjoyable and memorable. We want every child to feel comfortable, confident, and excited to discover toys that bring them joy, while giving parents peace of mind that their family's needs are understood and respected.

How it works:

- Book a 15-minute slot by selecting the time slot and adding it to your shopping cart.

- A £10 deposit secures your booking and is converted into store credit when you visit. No shows will be non-refundable.

- We will welcome up to 3 families per time slot to maintain a comfortable and relaxed environment.

Please share so we can get this out to as many people who require this so their little ones can experience a calm shopping experience


Play • Discover • Belong
SEND SUNDAY
at Roskai Toy Shop
A calmer shopping environment
A more inclusive experience
Everyone is welcome
Play belongs to everyone
A relaxed, supportive shopping experience for children and young people with SEND and their families.
Same great toys.
A more inclusive day.
SEND Sunday
at Roskai Toy Shop
Because every child belongs.

FoPHS News

We have dates set for the year! You will find this attached. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 2nd December from 9.45-10.45.** Please join us if you can as we prepare for the magical Christmas events. I have been scouring local shops for decorations for our grotto as we expect Santa will be with us for a full day on Tuesday 15th December. I am somewhat lacking in creative skills and would greatly appreciate the support of parents/carers on **Monday 14th December** to make this even better than previous years.

As you know, we support the 3 MOVE events in school, and all are wonderful. However, Winter Wonderland has the edge I think, and I am offering parents/carers the opportunity to see it after a social coffee morning on **Wednesday 16th December.** This is a tour of the trail, and it is unlikely that your child will be there when you visit. The purpose is to enable communication with your child about it.

IQ Christmas Cards.

Not all students chose to design a card, but for those who did order forms have been sent home. Today is the deadline for orders to be delivered to school and I have sent a couple of reminders. You may still order after today, but there will be additional postage to pay. Thanks to those of you who have ordered already. Once they arrive in school I will send them home. I hope that you love them.

SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER FAYRE 2027

We have a date set, and Saturday 26th June 2027 will be our biennial FoPHS Summer Fayre. We will soon start planning. If any of our parents/carers has experience in organising events, we would love to get you involved. Many hands make light work. It will take place in the Sports Hall and the area in front of school reception from 11-14.00. The summer fayre is popular with our families. We rely heavily on our parents and families to make this a huge success. Can you help? Have you got some great ideas? Can you donate items for the tombolas? Can someone in your family volunteer their time to man a stall? Does any parent/carer work for a company that offers match funding? If your answer to any of the above is yes, or even maybe please contact me. Let's make this bigger and better.

Your current committee:

Chair: Hannah Fuller (staff)

Vice Chair: Nicola Short (parent)

Treasurer: Ros Holden (parent/parent governor)

Secretary: Catherine Trobe (staff)

Family Liaison: Eileen Robinson (staff/school, role specific appointment)

Co-opted:

LPPA link: Tracy Smithson (staff)
Fund-raising link: Fran Clark Jewitt (staff)

Student Council: current Chair of Student Council supported by Amanda Waugh who supports the Student Council.

Day	Date	FoPHS	Social Coffee
Wednesday	23 September 2026	9.30-11	9.30-11
Wednesday	2 December 2026	9.45-10.45	
Wednesday	16 December 2026		9.30-11.30 (+ tour of MOVEing in a Winter Wonderland
Wednesday	20 January 2027	9.45-10/45	
Tuesday	1 February 2027		9.30-11
Wednesday	10 March 2027	9.30-11 **AGM**	
Thursday	13 May 2027		9.30-11

Wednesday	26 May 2027	9.45-10.45	
Monday	21 June 2027		9.30-11
Saturday	**26 June 2027**	**Summer Fayre 11-14.00**	
Wednesday	7 July 2027	9.45-10.45	



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

This week's quote is from Children in Need:

"Every child deserves an adult who will listen".

Contact details
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Telephone: 0191 2161811 ext. 3260.



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