Percy Hedley School's

Whole School Blog

News, Stars - 🎵 *Numeracy Song & Rhyme Week! Hindu Temple Visits, Metro Adventures and More!* 🎄 – *from John & the PHS Team*

Friday 20th November,

Hello everyone

It's been a musical week across school as we celebrated '**Numeracy Song and Rhyme Week**'! Classes have been singing, counting, exploring patterns and developing numeracy skills through a range of much-loved songs and rhymes. From hands-on sensory activities to creative learning experiences, our students have shown great enthusiasm and engagement. Have a look below at some of the fantastic activities that have been taking place around school this week!

We're also continuing to get you our dates for the end of term, keep checking our Events Calendar on the school website for updates in the run-up to Christmas

Thanks for your support. Do enjoy this blog, Eileen's or Lizzie's – don't miss the articles on Online Safety - or anything else on the website and wider Foundation one

Cheers and all the best

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

From our Attendance Team – this is last week's data

The latest data from the Attendance Team

147 PUPILS	Week ending 13/11/26
Current Week	89.83
Year to date	90.26
PA – attendance 50-90%, current week	147
PA – attendance 50-90%, average	**14.90%**
SPA – attendance 0 - 50%, current week	16.90%
SPA – attendance 0 - 50%, average	**6.12%**
Unauthorised absences	6.10%
Unauthorised absences average	1.17%

Whole-school attendance this week was **89.83%**, compared with **90.61%** last week. As we move further into the autumn and winter months, we recognise that seasonal coughs, colds and other illnesses can have an impact on attendance, particularly given the complex needs of many of our children and young people. However, where pupils are well enough to attend school, we would encourage families to send them in. Our class teams and nursing team are always happy to provide support and advice should families be unsure whether their child is well enough to attend.

We have also seen an increase in unauthorised absences this week. We would like to remind families that every school day is important and provides valuable opportunities for learning, therapeutic support, social development and maintaining important routines. Wherever possible, holidays should be arranged during published school holiday periods to minimise disruption to pupils' education and therapeutic progress.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting good attendance and helping pupils make the most of every opportunity available to them.

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, and they make a real difference to our school!

This really fits in with our ethos and the vibe of the school too. Thanks to them!

Last week the Student Council supported Children in Need. This included planning the event, putting posters around school and arranging the raffle. They have been very busy. On the day, students were invited to wear 'whatever makes them comfortable' so we had students in pyjamas and non-uniform. We also had Anne doing the face painting and Callum selling raffle tickets. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves. The winners of the raffle were Matthew, Nat, Sinead and Claire. Well done!

Massive thank you to everyone who supported this, we managed to raise approximately £250.









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 the latest

This week was the start of our project with local author Jodie James, who came into school on Monday to get to know us! Jodie ran a series of workshops for students in the hall, and visited classes around school.

Jodie showed us books that she's written and showed us different ways that she has created or told stories. She was then able to find out about our students, the kinds of stories they like, how they like to create and different forms of output. She saw switching, all sorts of mark making and heard some incredible ideas for new story books!

We're looking forward to welcoming Jodie again soon as we work towards creating our own, Percy Hedley School Book - all very exciting!


Moving
Learning
Growing
Together
THE DADDY LION









Just a reminder from last weeks blog of NON-FICTION NOVEMBER and all of the wonderful resources you have access to at home using our subscription to online library Pickatale.

All students have access to Pickatale, so if you aren't sure of your child or young person's log in please speak to their class team (and if they have a reading record book that comes home, the log in will be stuck on the inside!)

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026

National Non-Fiction November



Becky Finn

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! This time Vicky has a message

Outdoor Learning in Colder Weather

As the weather becomes colder, we still want our pupils to enjoy being active outdoors. With suitable clothing and sensible adjustments, outdoor learning can continue to support physical development and wellbeing throughout the winter months.

Outdoor learning gives pupils space to move their bodies in different ways. Walking over uneven ground, climbing, balancing, carrying, digging and exploring can help to develop:

Strength and stamina

Balance and coordination

Gross motor skills

Body awareness

Confidence and independence

Physical and emotional wellbeing

Cold or wet weather does not automatically mean that pupils need to stay indoors. Wearing several comfortable layers helps to keep the body warm, while waterproof outer clothing and suitable footwear help pupils stay dry and comfortable. Clothing should also leave enough room for pupils to move freely and take part in activities.

The poster provides suggestions for suitable clothing at different temperatures. It is intended as a helpful guide rather than a fixed rule, as the weather, planned activity and individual needs of each pupil will also be considered.

Staff will consider the temperature alongside wind, rain, ice, the length of time the group will be outside and the individual needs of each pupil. During very cold weather, outdoor sessions may be shortened and include regular opportunities to warm up. If conditions are unsafe, activities will be adapted or moved indoors.

Families do not need to purchase expensive specialist clothing. Everyday items can be layered, while second-hand clothing, hand-me-downs and school clothing swaps can also be useful options. The most important thing is that clothing is warm, dry, comfortable and suitable for movement.



The Rainbow Pod



We are delighted to introduce a new additional sensory room here at Percy Hedley School!

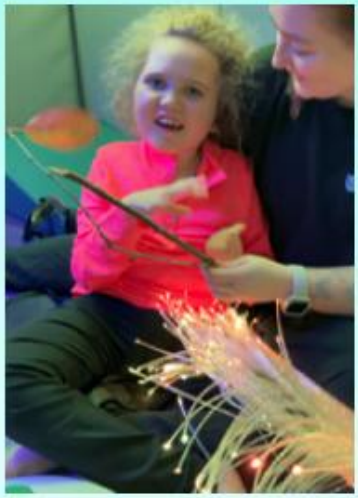
We take a whole-school approach to promoting physical development, recognising the importance of sensory and movement experiences in supporting students to experience, engage and participate in meaningful activities.

Our sensory rooms provide opportunities for students to explore different sensory experiences, develop physical and sensory motor skills, learn through play, support communication and social interaction or be a space for calm and emotional regulation.

Our new sensory room is an exciting addition to our ongoing commitment to physical development, supporting every student to move, explore, regulate and participate within an additional learning environment.

Some of our students have been enjoying using the Rainbow Pod. Exploring the interactive features and engaging in sensory stories!

Welcome to the Rainbow Pod







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. Let's hear about this week

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

PSHE This Half Term

Our whole-school PSHE theme this half term is "Self-Care, Support & Safety". Pupils across the school will explore this theme through topics that are appropriate to their age and developmental stage.

This half term's focus areas are:

KS2: *What is private?* (Primary curriculum)

KS3: *What's public and private in school?* (Secondary curriculum)

KS4: *What is gambling?*

Post-16: *How can I manage risk?*

At Percy Hedley School, we use the PSHE Association SEND Framework, which enables pupils to access statutory, age-appropriate PSHE learning at a level that matches their assessed developmental stage. This helps ensure that lessons are meaningful, relevant and accessible for all learners.

If you would like to view any of the resources being used in lessons, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher or email me directly at j.ferguson@percyhedley.org.uk.

I am also happy to attend coffee afternoons to discuss any aspect of the PSHE curriculum, answer questions, or address any concerns you may have.

SMSC and Cultural Capital

Diwali

As part of the SMSC Calendar and our Cultural Capital Programme, pupils enjoyed celebrating Diwali with a range of exciting activities across the school.

Throughout the day, classes learned about the story and traditions of Diwali through a special video from a local artist, before getting creative in a shadow puppet workshop inspired by the festival. Pupils also had the fantastic opportunity to take part in energetic Bollywood dance sessions, where they learned new moves and explored an important part of Indian culture.

It was wonderful to see pupils engaging with different traditions, developing their understanding of the world around them, and having lots of fun along the way. We hope they enjoyed sharing what they learned with you at home!

Happy Diwali to all of our families who celebrate. ✨🪔








FORZA
SPACE
DISCOVERY

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

This week we introduced Jigsaw club to our lunchtime activities. It was a huge hit!

Jigsaws are a great way to help develop fine motor and problem-solving skills. They help teach about shape, size and spatial awareness. Engaging in a jigsaw helps with resilience and frustration tolerance. Faye showed brilliant resilience and patience this week, she was determined to finish the jigsaw during her lunch break time. Faye said, it was the first time she had ever completed a jigsaw and was so proud of herself. Well done Faye


Today's club is .....
Jigsaws








Connect
Give
Keep Learning
Wellbeing
Take Notice
Be Active
in Percy Hedley School

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 & Richard have for us!



🏆 It's Competition Time with Newcastle United Foundation! ⚽

Once a month, the boys get the opportunity to put their skills into practice and compete as a team! A chance to challenge themselves, celebrate progress and experience the excitement of football competition.

It's about giving our best, supporting our teammates and enjoying the experience together.

We've had a fantastic start to our boys' football sessions, with everyone beginning to develop their own roles within the team, building confidence and supporting one another on the pitch.

It's great to see individuals growing into their positions:

- **Matt – Taking on the important roles of defender and goalkeeper, becoming a key member of the team.**
- **Conrad, Edward and Zacaria – Our new additions to the team! All getting involved, finding their feet and becoming part of the squad. It's great to have you on board, boys!**
- **Shaye – Providing a solid presence in midfield, helping link the team together.**
- **Bobbie – Becoming a reliable presence at the back and taking responsibility for our corners.**

And to all the boys who haven't been mentioned individually, you are just as important to this team! Every player has a role to play, every contribution

matters and it's when we work together, support each other and believe in one another that we become a winning team.

Through our partnership with Newcastle United Foundation, we're developing more than football skills. We're building confidence, friendships, teamwork, responsibility and resilience.

One team, one goal. Let's grow together and become the best team we can be! 👏⚽



The Marvellous Early Years Blossoms!

We have a great Early Years class, The Blossoms, 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 been celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week and focusing on the nursery rhyme 10 in the Bed.

We enjoyed listening to the song and joining in with the actions. Oakley particularly enjoyed this and even lay on the carpet to roll around like the characters in the rhyme! After practising taking one teddy away as a group, we had the opportunity to explore the activity using our own beds and ten toys. We worked hard to remove one toy each time a character fell out of bed!

During our Bucket Time sessions, we continued to explore this nursery rhyme. The children watched as ten bears were splatted one at a time while we counted backwards from ten. There was lots of anticipation as blue paint appeared with each splat!

In our ELS sessions, we enjoyed blowing bubbles together, and Lydia even tried to pop one with her tongue! This week, we have been focusing on the letter a. The children have enjoyed learning the action associated with this letter and joining in with our phonics song. We also explored objects beginning with the sound a.

Finally, we also had our first PE session with Abbie, which was lots of fun! We are beginning to develop our ball skills and enjoyed a range of activities involving throwing, kicking and rolling balls.











Bringing RE to Life: A Memorable Visit to a Hindu Temple with 5RDRM and 5LA

As part of our RE learning, some students from 5RDRM and 5LA enjoyed a fantastic visit to a Hindu temple. During our visit, we met Kirtida, who warmly welcomed us and shared a range of fascinating Hindu stories. She gave us a guided tour of the temple, explaining its special features and teaching us about how Hindus pray and worship.

The students had a wonderful hands-on experience, dressing up in traditional saris and turbans, which helped bring their learning to life. They also had the opportunity to practise playing traditional drums, enjoying the rhythms and sounds that are an important part of Hindu celebrations and worship.







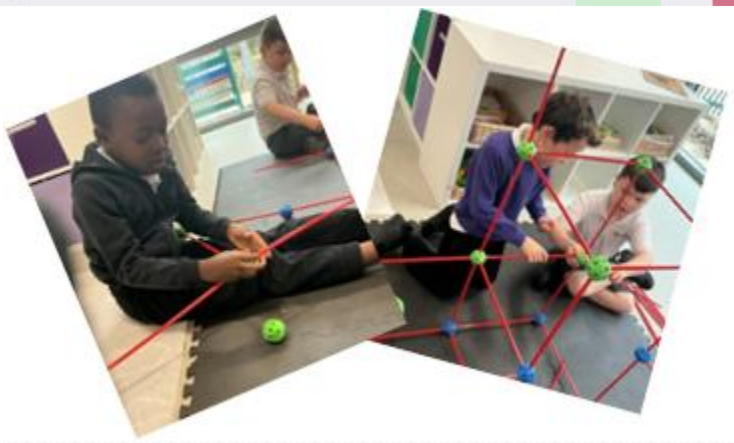






Class 2CC has been full of excitement, creativity and exploration as we enjoyed reading The Gruffalo's Child together! The story sparked lots of wonderful discussions about the different animals and the places they lived. Inspired by this, we decided to build our very own den in the classroom. We worked together to create a cosy shelter where we could imagine ourselves living like the animals from the story.





Once our den was complete, we needed to make sure it would keep us safe and dry. We became scientists and investigated which materials would make the best roof. We carefully tested different materials by dropping water onto them and observing whether the animals underneath stayed dry. At the end of the story, the brave mouse cleverly tricks the Gruffalo's Child by creating a big, scary shadow. This inspired us to make our own animal shadow puppets and explore how light works using torches. We had great fun experimenting with shadows, changing their size and shape, and discovering how moving the light affected what we could see.



We have also been busy developing our fine motor and early writing skills through a range of engaging activities. We have practised strengthening our hand muscles, improving our pencil control and building our confidence when mark-making and writing. It has been fantastic to see everyone showing perseverance and pride in their work.



Metro Travels and Gruffalo Smiles for 4MM/HT

Today's trip was a fantastic opportunity for pupils in 4MM/HT to experience travelling on the Metro and visit Fenwick's Christmas Window, which this year featured The Gruffalo's Child.

For some of our pupils, this was their very first time travelling on the Metro. We were incredibly proud of how well everyone behaved while waiting for the train, listening carefully to instructions and showing great patience. Once in Newcastle city centre, the group walked to Fenwick's beautifully, staying together and demonstrating excellent behaviour throughout the journey.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed looking at the characters from The Gruffalo's Child and spotting details within the festive display. It was wonderful to see so much excitement and engagement as they explored the window. After taking in all the sights, the group travelled back to school, once again showing fantastic behaviour and representing our school brilliantly.

Well done, 4MM/HT. You should all be very proud of yourselves!









Gardening Club with Ben!



Or, Horticulture News, if you want to be posh! Anyway, great things are happening in this area of school!

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

Allergy Information – Important Reminder

To help us comply with Benedicts Law and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, we kindly ask that if your child has any allergies, you complete and return the allergy information letter recently sent home in their bag.

Please ensure you provide details of

Name

Date of Birth

What your child is allergic to.

-What reaction they may experience.

-Any treatment or medication required.

If you no longer have the letter, please email the School Nursing Team on PHSNurses@percyhedley.org.uk with this information.

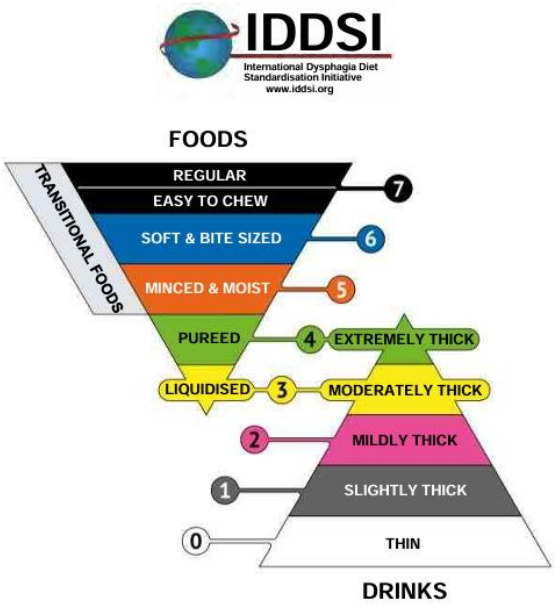
Thank you for your support in helping us keep all our children safe.



Go Nurses!



Eating, Drinking & Swallowing, from Jennie



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 explain what it all means, so we can work together to make sure we get it right for our students.



Drinks can come in a range of consistencies and get thicker the higher up the levels you go.

- *Level 0 thin flows like water*
- *Level 1 is thicker than water and needs a bit more effort to drink*
- *Level 2 flows off a spoon but needs more effort to drink*

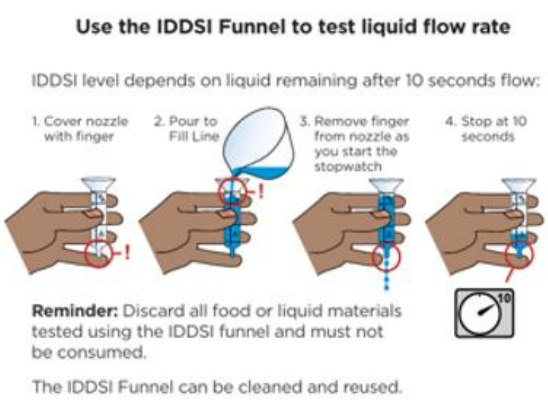
- *Level 3 can be drunk from a cup and will drip slowly through the prongs of a fork*
- *Level 4 is taken from a spoon and sits on a fork*

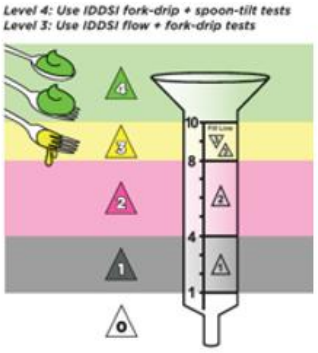
Drinks are usually thickened with a thickening powder provided by your GP. Most people use this one (but there are other makes available):



How do I know the drink is the right consistency?

- *Follow the mixing instructions on the thickener tin.*
- *Use the IDDSI flow test (funnels can be provided by the SaLT team):*





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

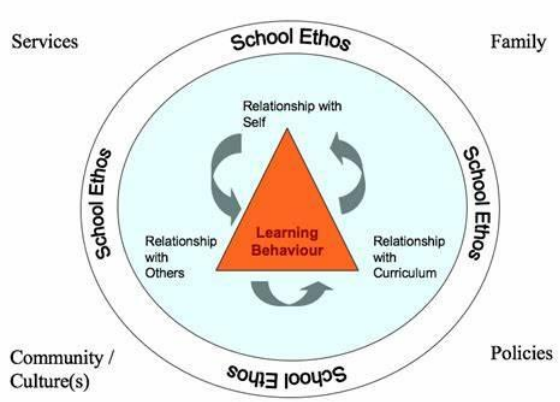


Figure 1: Behaviour for Learning conceptual framework



Preparation for Adulthood with Hannah

Starting With The Person

As parents and carers, you know that your child is a unique individual with their own personality, interests, strengths, dreams and ways of expressing themselves. That is why effective planning always starts with the person.

Over the last two weeks, we have explored the importance of listening to young people and valuing the contribution of families. This week, we are looking at person-centred planning and how it helps ensure that every child or young person remains at the heart of decisions about their life and future.

Person-centred planning begins with a simple but important question: Who is this young person, and what matters to them?

For some children, the answer may come through conversations. For others, it may be shared through their choices, behaviour, interests, communication systems or the insights of family members and professionals who know them well. Whatever form it takes, every young person has preferences, feelings and aspirations that deserve to be understood and respected.

A key part of person-centred planning is thinking about both what is important to a young person and what is important for them. What is important *to* them might include favourite activities, special people, interests, routines or future ambitions.

What is important *for* them may include health, safety, communication, learning and wellbeing. Good planning brings these together, helping young people lead lives that are both fulfilling and well supported.

At Percy Hedley School, person-centred approaches are woven throughout school life. This year, the PfA steering group is looking at ways to develop tools which help our young people navigate their next steps. These include developing documents which celebrate achievements and our Clinic Project, which is helping our students develop their self-advocacy. This also helps us build a richer understanding of each young person, celebrating who they are today while also looking ahead to the future.

Most importantly, person-centred planning helps ensure that outcomes feel meaningful. Young people are often more motivated to work towards goals when those goals connect to something they value, whether that is making friends, joining a community group, becoming more independent, learning a new skill or exploring future employment opportunities. Preparation for Adulthood is not about creating the same future for every young person. It is about helping each individual work towards a life that reflects their own hopes, interests and potential. By starting with the person, we can create plans that are ambitious, realistic and truly meaningful.

Reflection Question

What makes your child happiest, most confident or most engaged, and how might this help shape their future goals?

Taking a moment to think about this can be a powerful first step in understanding what a successful and fulfilling adult life might look like for them.

*****

Do visit the Parent Carer PfA Resource Page

Preparing for Adulthood Resources - Percy Hedley School

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



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. Reach 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

A huge thank you to our fantastic catering team, who work tirelessly to provide delicious, nutritious meals for our students every day. The dining hall is always such a lovely, welcoming place, full of happy chatter and smiling faces as pupils enjoy their lunch together. I always love to go and join the children and see everyone enjoying their meals and spending time with their friends.

As the weather gets colder, our winter menu is packed with warming, healthy dishes to keep everyone fuelled for learning and play. Please do take a look at the delicious winter menu on our school website and see the wonderful range of meals on offer.

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

				
Chilli Con Carne	Braised Sausage in Gravy	Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding	Lasagne	Beefburger in a Bun
				
Syrup Sponge & Custard	Ginger Sponge & Custard	Orange Drizzle Cake	Cup Cake	Banana & Caramel Sponge with Custard

Exams with Kat!

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

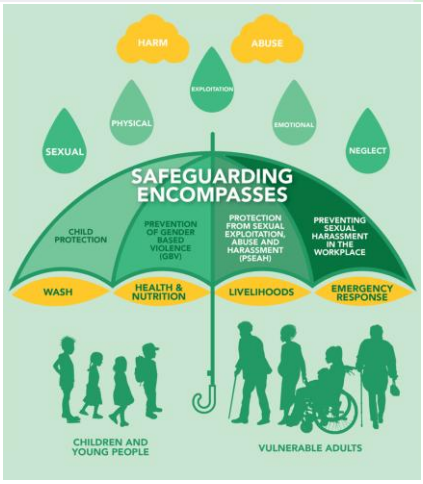
With the new academic year under way, the exams team is starting the full year cycle once more. Updating details, preparing the years schedule of qualifications, and setting up support and information for teaching staff and students. Updated regulations have been circulated by JCQ (Joint Council of Qualifications)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

Safeguarding



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

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

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 see what Lizzie is focusing on at the moment

Here is the online safety blog this week-

This week's **Online Safety Blog** is now available Online Safety blogs - Percy Hedley School and is particularly important for families. With the recent release of **Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA 6)**, the blog highlights key information for parents and carers about the game's age-inappropriate content and the types of themes children and young people may be exposed to. It also explores the platforms where GTA-related content is commonly shared, including YouTube, TikTok, Twitch and social media channels, meaning that young people may encounter clips, discussions and gameplay footage even if they do not have access to the game itself. In addition, our Wellbeing Team has contributed a section looking at the impact that online content can have on emotional wellbeing, helping families to support healthy and balanced digital habits. We would encourage all parents and carers to take a few minutes to read this week's blog and discuss online safety with their child at home.

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





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!



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 kelly.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

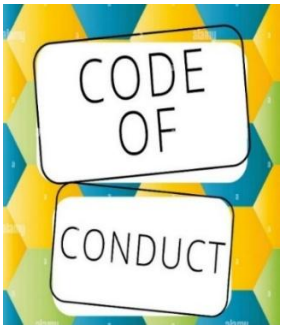
- *A note in the school diary if the absence is known in advance eg medical appointment*
- *A telephone call to the school office before 9.30 on the first day of absence if the absence was unplanned, eg illness*
- *Email to class teacher*

or PHSattendance@percyhedley.org.uk.address 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! FoPHS News!

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. 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.

We are well on the way to getting ready for FoPHS activity in the lead up to Christmas. Our next meeting is on ***Wednesday 2nd December from 9.45-10.45.*** *Please join us if you can. As we prepare for Christmas, we will need some help from parents to:*

- *Wrap gifts*
- *Decorate the grotto on Monday 14th December*
- *Help with FoPHS stall at the Christmas fayre on Thursday 17th December.*
- *Donate items we can use for hampers for our raffle at the Christmas fayre.*

School Photos

A letter will be sent home today with details. We offered these in 2024, and our wonderful staff member Beth has offered to do them again this year. This will be on a pay as you feel basis with a suggested minimum donation of £10. Photos will only be taken for those who request them and payment is being requested before photos are taken. Digital photos will be sent to you by email once they have been processed. You will receive 3 digital images.

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

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!

Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) Questionnaire

Dear Families

We would like to thank parents and families for taking the time to complete the questionnaire which was sent out on 7th October. We would like to extend the completion date to Friday13th November

As mentioned in the blog before half term, responses may be submitted anonymously, however, if you choose to include your child's name this would help us to 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

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/kSvAi4Nkeg

Enjoy your weekend

Tracy and the LPPA Team

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!

PRE-FORMAL – CHERRY STAR!

Emily!

Resilience

Well done to Emily, our Star of the Week in Cherry Pre-Formal Pathway, for demonstrating fantastic resilience, determination, and perseverance during her rebound therapy sessions.

This week, Emily experienced gentle bouncing movements while sitting on a roll with adult support for the first time. Throughout the session, she clearly indicated that she wanted "more". Well done Emily- we are very proud of you!



SEMI-FORMAL PATHWAY – DAMSON STAR

Zac!

Resilience!

This week, Zac has really impressed us with his resilience and determination. He has been stepping out of his comfort zone, showing growing confidence in communicating with staff and classmates and sharing his preferences. Zac has also worked hard to develop his independence, taking pride in jobs such as setting the table for snack time and tidying away resources. His positive attitude and willingness to keep trying, even when things are challenging, have been wonderful to see.

Well done, Zac, we're all so proud of you!



FORMAL PATHWAY – QUINCE STARS

Respect & Resilience

Resilience

Joe F for showing maturity and thoughtfulness when working on independent travel in the community!

Joe B for challenging himself with his running goals and working hard in his physiotherapy session!

Sinead & Preston for overcoming personal difficulties this week!

Scarlett P for reflecting on a tricky couple of days and then doing the right thing!



Respect

Matthew B and Harry L for respectful behaviour in an activity they disliked!

Callum T for respectful communication talking to school transport manager in a student council meeting!



Post 16 – ORCHARD PATHWAY STAR

Respect * Teamwork * Resilience

Brandon is showing amazing independence. He gets all of his morning equipment sorted without any prompting. Awesome!!

Leighton for working really hard in engineering. He is brilliant at sanding. Well done!!

Ayaan for being really mature and coping with different situations. Brilliant!!

Dom for being really calm and coping with a very difficult situation. Fantastic!!

Matthew and Patrick worked really hard at the farm. Amazing.!!!!

Resilience and Respect

Ellie coped really well and tried to help when a peer was having a tricky time. Very well done!!

Teamwork and Respect

Lucas for using his initiative to try to support a peer. He was so patient. Phenomenal!!



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 16th November

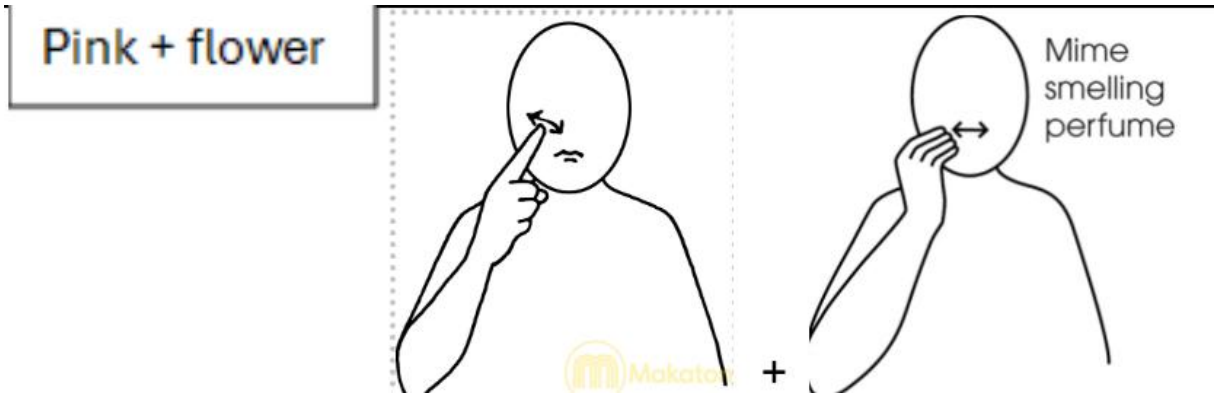
Makaton signs of the week 16th November - Pathway signs!

Our curriculum pathways have new fruity names - time to learn some new signs!

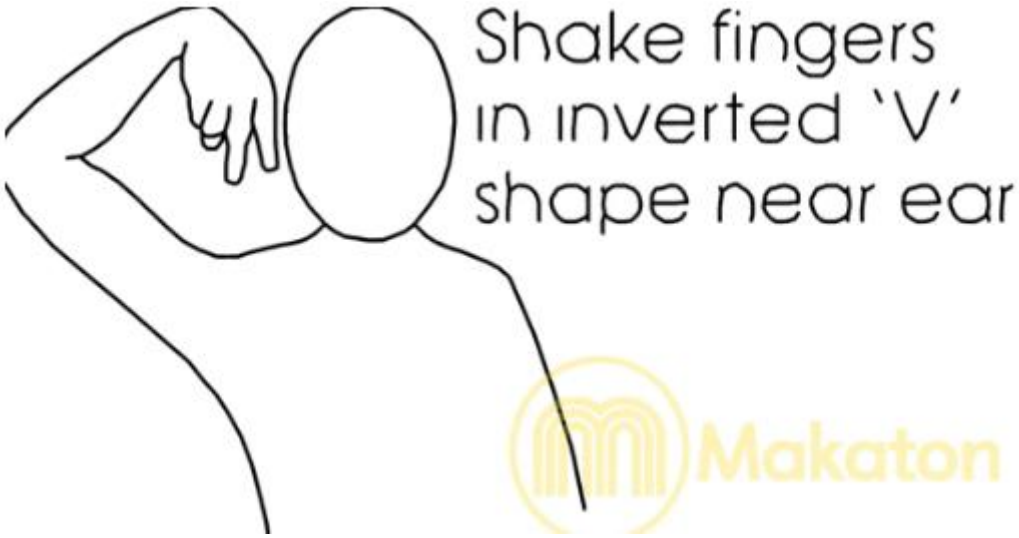


Here is my video:

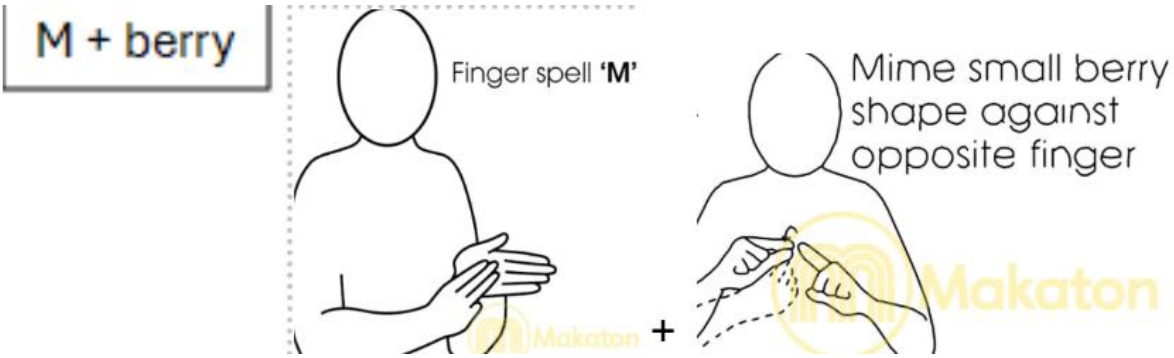
EY/KS1 is blossom



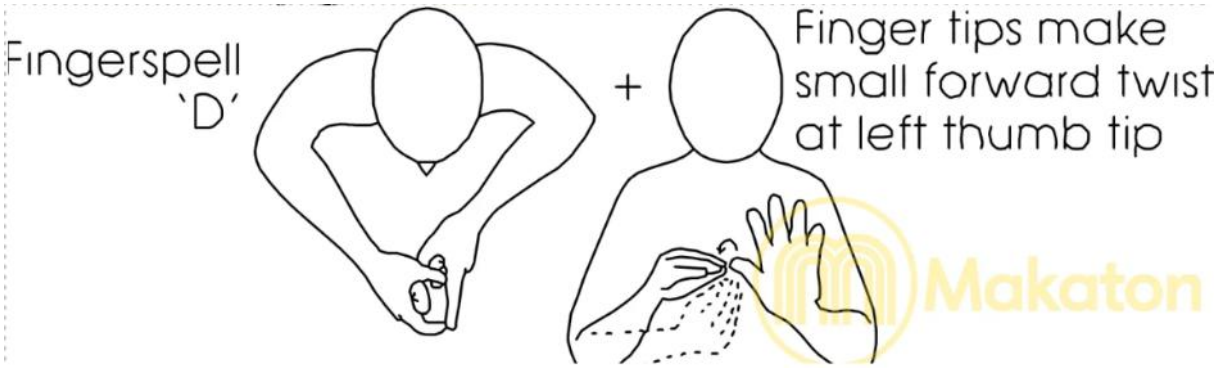
Pre-formal Pathway is cherry



Informal Pathway is Mulberry



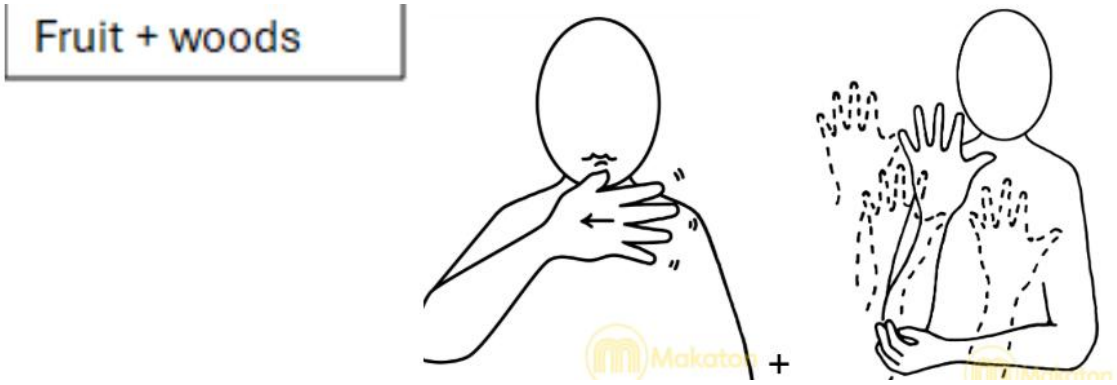
Semi-formal Pathway is Damson

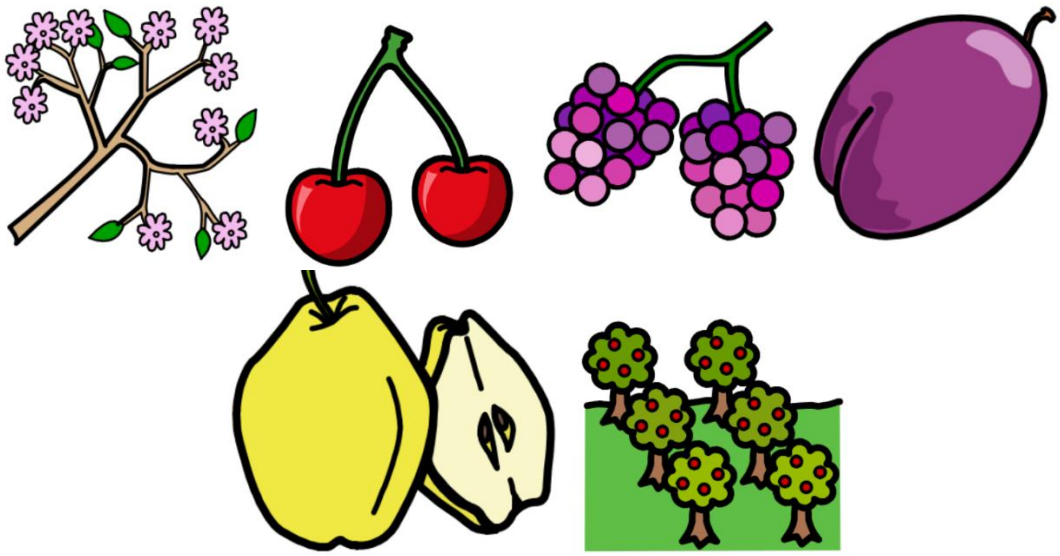


Formal Pathway is Quince



Post 16 is Orchard





Please ask myself or Kate Conn if you have any Makaton questions.



Julie

Have a great day 😊

Keep signing!

Julie







And finally.....

More on Numeracy Song and Rhyme Week!

In Lauren and Hannah's class they we have focused on '5 Speckled Frogs'. We enjoyed singing the rhyme and splatting green foam as we sang, using our fine motor skills to make frogs 'jump', playing with 'frog spawn' slime, making peppermint green lily pads and even met the speckled frogs in the hydro pool!



Early Years have been singing '10 in a bed' and Kate has shared that they have been singing the song together and joining in with the actions. During group activities, they used ten soft toys and took turns removing one bear at a time as they sang each verse. When they reached the part where the teddy fell out of bed, we pressed a sound button to make a loud "crash!" sound.



Chris's class also looked at '10 in a bed' but focused on how the numbers got smaller as more animals fell from the bed!



Richard's class have took their numeracy skills into the real world! Inspired by the song 'Espresso' they have visited Tynemouth to practise their money skills. The class worked together to organise their trip, order their food and drinks at the café and pay.



Christian's class have enjoyed singing 'The Grand Old Duke of York'. They have worked on their physical skills lifting their arms up and down and marching their feet. They have also had a fabulous time banging the drum to keep the beat and make quiet and loud bangs.



Andy's class have been having a lot of fun... I wonder if you can guess what song they have been sing....!



Beth's class have looked at 'My Favourite Things' and focused on their favourite musical instruments. The boys have explored playing their favourite instruments fast and slow, loud and quiet. They have worked very hard as a group and made lots of noise!



Well done everyone! What a wonderful week!

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

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Our Key Drivers

Communication, Wellbeing, Independence