



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 3
November 2018

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a lovely half term break. School continues to be very busy and as we approach Christmas we look forward to welcoming you into school for our festive events.

Learning Mornings

Thank you to everyone who has been able to join us this week at our learning mornings. We hope you enjoyed your time in school and look forward to welcoming you again in the future.

KS2 visit to Eden Camp

KS2 had a very enjoyable day at Eden Camp before the holidays and the visit really enhanced their learning and understanding of what life was like during the war. Please take some time to look on the website at the photos.

Spooky Spectacular

There were some very spooky sights at the Halloween discos held before half term! Everyone enjoyed themselves and we are pleased to announce that we raised almost £400.00! Now that we have relocated the library we are looking to restock with some new titles and this money will be used to fund part of this project.

PE Sporting Success

Our sporting success continues. During the past month we have been amazed by the Y5/6 Girls football team. It was their first tournament playing together and they secured 4 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat – brilliant! Meanwhile KS1 took two teams to a multiskills tournament and returned with Gold and Silver places! Finally, we took a large group of KS2 children to the cross country event at Cannon Hall. There were more schools than usual in attendance, but even so, 15 of our children managed to secure a place in the finals. Well done everyone and thanks too to Mr Gorner and Mrs Larkin for coaching our superstars!

BBC Children in Need Appeal 2018

You should have received a letter before the holidays giving you advance notice that on Friday 16th November we are having a 'Pyjama Day' to support the 'BBC Children in Need' appeal. For a donation of 50p your child can come to school in their pyjamas (or their normal clothes). Please can we politely remind you that as your child will still be going outside at playtime and lunchtime, it is important that they also have clothing that will keep them warm e.g. tights underneath their pyjamas or trousers to wear over the top.

Parents Evening

We look forward to welcoming you into school later this month to speak with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress and achievements in school. If you have not already done so, please access the online booking system to make an appointment for either Wednesday 21st or Wednesday 28th November. If you have any difficulties booking, please contact Mrs Midgley who will be able to help you.

Ofsted Inspection

As you will be aware, we were visited by Ofsted during the week before half term. We are expecting the report within the next week or two and it will be distributed once we receive it. Thank you, on behalf of the inspectors, to those of you who returned your parent questionnaire.

Harvest Festival at St. Helen's

On Thursday 18th October KS1 and KS2 children enjoyed a visit to St. Helen's Church for a Harvest Festival led by Father Edward. The childrens' singing was brilliant and their behaviour was a credit to the school. A huge thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity in donating so many food items which have been donated to the food bank.

Attendance

At Athersley South we have high expectations of all children in relation to punctuality and attendance. Attendance for each class for the year so far is shown below.

F1 (am) – 91.27% F1 (pm) – 81.03%

F2 – 92.29%

Class 1 – 90.94%

Class 2 – 96.59%

Class 3 – 94.54%

Class 4 – 93.34%

Class 5 – 94.65%

Class 6 – 96.29%

Class 7 – 94.10%

Class 8 – 96.67%

Congratulations to **Class 8** who have the best attendance! If your child cannot attend school for any reason, please contact the main school office on (01226 284223) before 9.30am. If your child cannot attend school for any reason please contact the main school office on (01226) 284223 before 9.30am. Mrs Midgley will contact families if an absence has not been reported. This is because we have a statutory duty to ensure all children are safe. Our EWO this year will continue to be Mrs Nicola Fowler. Her role is to work with school and families to offer support, advice and guidance where punctuality and attendance causes concern. In such cases, Mrs Midgley may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with Mrs Midgley and Mrs Fowler. Home visits may also take place as and when necessary. If your child will not be in school for any reason other than illness you will need to complete a 'Request for Leave of Absence' form, available at the school office. If your child has a medical appointment you should inform either your child's class teacher or the school office so the appropriate mark can be recorded in the register. In such cases you will not be asked to complete a form.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 16th November – Children in Need 'Pyjama Day'

Wednesday 21st/Wednesday 28th November – Parents Evening

Monday 17th December – FS2 Christmas sing-a-long

Wednesday 19th December – KS1 Christmas Concert/KS2 Carols

Attendance

Raise Your Attendance – Raise Your Chances

We place a high importance on attendance at our Athersley South and feel every effort should be made to attend school regularly and to achieve 100% attendance. The greater your child's attendance at school, the more likely your child is to achieve their targets. The following information gives you some idea of what pupils should be working towards, and what action might be taken if you fall below accepted levels in line with LA guidelines. Recent changes in Government guidance has seen the threshold for persistent absenteeism change from below 85% to below 90%.

Attendance %

100% Excellent – this is what pupils should achieve. It means they can be really successful and make lots of progress.

95% Satisfactory – This means a pupil has missed almost 10 school days in a year. **In five years this is almost a full term.**

Below 95% is considered 'Unsatisfactory' At this stage our EWO, Nicola Fowler, will be informed and a pupil's absence will be monitored. Parents may be contacted and may be invited to an internal school panel meeting in school.

90% attendance means a pupil has missed almost 20 days in a school year. **In five years this is $\frac{1}{2}$ a school year.** Following recent changes to guidance and legislation, this now puts a pupil in the Government category of **'Persistent Absence'** and the school is expected to put things in place to improve a pupil's attendance. Parents will be contacted and expected to attend a meeting in school with Mrs Midgley our Parent Support Advisor, Nicola Fowler our EWO and the Headteacher. At this stage parents can face further action such as a Fixed Penalty Notice.

85% Poor – This means a pupil has missed almost 30 days in a school year. **In five years this is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a school year.** At this stage parents face the possibility of court action.

80% Very Poor – This means a pupil has missed almost 40 days in a school year. **In five years this is a whole school year off school.**

At Athersley South we fully understand that there are exceptional circumstances that can impact on attendance and Mrs Midgley works closely with families to offer the necessary support and advice. Ultimately we want all our children to attend for as many days as is possible to enable them to progress to the best of their ability and we hope to work with you to enable this to happen.