



# Athersley South Primary School

[www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk](http://www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk)

## First Friday

Edition 9

May 2018

### Dear Parents,

Welcome to this month's edition of First Friday. Please take a few minutes to read what has been happening in school and what is coming up soon.

#### PE trip to Sheffield

We continue to experience sporting success at a number of local tournaments, most recently achieving first place in the Y3/4 Benchball competition. Our thanks go to Mr Gerner and Mrs Larkin who continue to support our children in preparing for events at their lunchtime and after school clubs. Plans are currently being finalised for a group of KS2 children to attend the South Yorkshire School Games Basketball (Y4) Final at Sheffield Institute of Sport. Reaching the final is a fantastic achievement for our children and the opportunity to represent school in the regional final is an amazing opportunity. We are very proud of all our children and their enthusiasm and effort during sporting activities ☺.

#### Government Testing

SATS - Y6 will be completing their SATS tests during the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> May and Y2 the week after. To help support them, please can we remind you that it is essential that your child has a good night's sleep and is at school on time. All the children have been working very hard and we know they will achieve to the best of their ability. Good luck everyone ☺

Y1 phonics screening – All children in Y1 will participate in a phonics screening check during week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> June. In addition, those children in Year 2 who were unsuccessful in meeting the Government's expected standard during last year's check, will also take part. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions about the check.

#### Winning Team Trip

The Vultures were the winning team in Spring, gaining the most points for their behaviour and achievements. They were rewarded earlier this half term with an opportunity to see a selection of birds of prey.

#### Arts Week

From Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May, all children from F1 to Y6 in school will participate in our annual Arts Week. We are very much looking forward to this and look forward to performances of the show on the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> of July.

#### Y5/6 Musical Performance

Our booking has now been confirmed for all our Y5/6 children to participate in the Barnsley schools music festival. They will perform on their brass and percussion instruments at Barnsley Metrodome in June. The children have worked hard all year learning their class instrument and this will be a great opportunity for them to show off their musical talents. Further details to follow.

### Parents Evening

Many thanks to all those parents who attended our recent Parents Evening. We very much appreciate your support.

#### Playground Young Leaders

Congratulations to the 19 Y5/6 pupils who have recently completed their playground young leader training with Team Activ. They are all very enthusiastic about their new roles and we look forward to them supporting our younger children on the playground at break and lunchtimes.

#### Playgroup

Playgroup runs every Monday afternoon 1.30-2.45 in the House of Clubs with Mrs Walsh and Mrs Midgley. There are activities, games and a chance for a cuppa and a chat. We very much hope if you have young, pre-school children that you'll join us. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

#### 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) – 93.37%

F1 (pm) – 86.97%

F2 – 92.26%

Class 1 – 95.14%

Class 2 – 94.74%

Class 3 – 94.69%

Class 4 – 95.64%

Class 5 – 96.01%

Class 6 – 94.32%

Class 7 – 96.01%

Class 8 – 94.65%

Congratulations to **Class 5 and Class 7** who have the best attendance! If your child cannot attend school for any reason, please contact the main school office on (01226 284223) before 9.30.

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 continues 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. 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

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday, school closed

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May Y6 SATS week

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May Y2 SATS week

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May – INSET day, school closed to pupils

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June – School Closed

# 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 one of the Headteachers. 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.