



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 10
June 2018

Dear Parents,

Please take a few minutes to read what has been happening in school and what is coming up soon.

Mrs Whiteley

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Mrs Whiteley at the end of May. In her 18 years at the school she has made an enormous contribution to the school community and it has been a privilege to work with her. Her endless enthusiasm and commitment is unrivalled and we know that she will be a huge asset to her new school in Leeds where she will return to teaching. As you will already be aware from previous correspondence, Mrs Sanderson will take sole charge until the end of the Summer term. Details about staffing for September will be shared once all positions are finalised. Should you have any concerns or questions about your child in the meantime you should, in the first instance, contact their class teacher.

Arts Week

School was a hive of activity before half term as Arts Week took over school! Preparations are now well underway for our annual production 'A Knight's Tale' and we are very much looking forward to performances of the show on the 5th/6th of July. Please note we are aware that Darton College are having an open evening on 5th July for Y6 children and their parents but we have amended our show start to 7.15pm so that children can attend Darton as well as participating in the show.

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.

BREAKFAST CLUB PAY IN ADVANCE

Please can we politely remind you that all places at Breakfast Club must be **booked and paid for in advance**.

PE trip to Sheffield

We are immensely proud of our Y3/4 Barnsley Benchball champions who qualified for the South Yorkshire School Games Final. In May they attended the Sheffield Institute of Sport to compete against other Champions. While they were unsuccessful in their attempt to become South Yorkshire Champions they played well and with enthusiasm in all their games, showing respect for others and the rules of the game. They really were a credit to our school. Thanks too to Mr Gorner for preparing the children for the event and for supporting the children at the final 😊.

Lunch Arrangements

Please can we politely remind you that our catering providers are unable to offer your child the option of swapping on a daily basis and they should either have a packed lunch or school meal ALL week. If your child wishes to swap from having a packed lunch, to a school meal, or vice versa, they must give the office at least one week's notice. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Government Testing

SATS – We are immensely proud of all our Y2 and Y6 children who showed great maturity and resilience during their SATs tests in May. Well done everyone 😊.

Y1 phonics screening – All children in Y1 will participate in a phonics screening check next week. 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.

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) – 92.81%

F1 (pm) – 86.22%

F2 – 92.52%

Class 1 – 95.13%

Class 2 – 94.79%

Class 3 – 94.55%

Class 4 – 95.58%

Class 5 – 96.10%

Class 6 – 94.48%

Class 7 – 96.09%

Class 8 – 94.67%

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

Thursday 5th/Friday 6th July – Showtime - 'A Knight's Tale'

Friday 20th July – Final day of school year

Monday 23rd July – INSET day

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.