



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 11

July 2018

Dear Parents,

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

A Knight's Tale

What an amazingly talented school of children we have! It has been wonderful to see this year's show 'A Knight's Tale' develop and culminate in a brilliant performance last night, with a further performance still to come tonight. The efforts of the whole school deserve recognition with a range of fantastic work displayed in the entrance hall with contributions from F1 to Y6 pupils. Then there are of course the actors, actresses, dancers and the choir. An altogether amazing cast. Well done everyone and a special thanks to Mrs Brayshaw and Mrs Walton who have co-ordinated everything this year ☺.

Y5/6 Musical Performance

Wow! What an afternoon the Y5/6 children had performing at the Metrodome alongside other Barnsley schools in June. Well done everyone ☺.

KS1 and KS2 Sports Day

We look forward to welcoming you to Sports Day on Wednesday 11th July. The event starts at 9.15am.

Transition Week and 'Shuffling Up'

On Monday 16th July all children will 'shuffle up' to their new classes for a week, spending time settling into their new classroom with their new teachers. Further details regarding the staffing structure for September will be sent out next week and you will receive details of your child's new class and arrangements for the transition week e.g. which door to use to enter school.

Staff Changes

As we move towards the end of the year we have to say goodbye to three teachers. Miss D. Smith (KS1) will leave us next Friday as she has been covering Mrs Hale's maternity post and Miss C. Smith (Class 5) will leave us at the end of the term to embark upon a new challenge at another Barnsley school. In EYFS we say goodbye to Miss L. Walsh who has been the Early Years Leader of Learning this year. We are grateful for all they have done during their time with us at ASPS and wish them all the very best of luck in the future.

On Monday 16th July we will welcome back Mrs Hale, Mrs Lees and Mrs Webb, all of whom have been on maternity leave this year. All will work on a part time basis with effect from September. Also in September, Mrs Fitzpatrick, who many of you will know, will return from her two year secondment to the Local Authority in the role of EYFS Leader of Learning.

The Governors are currently in the process of appointing a Deputy Headteacher to join the school in the Autumn term. Details will follow once the post is filled.

PE Stars

Congratulations to all our Y3/4 and Y5/6 children who have recently competed in the Barnsley Athletics Championship. Their behaviour and effort was a credit to themselves and the school. Don't forget to look on the Sports Page on the website to view all our sporting achievements ☺. Good luck too to the Y1/2 children who will represent us next week.

Breakfast Club Payment

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

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) – 89.71%

F1 (pm) – 83.90%

F2 – 91.81%

Class 1 – 93.66%

Class 2 – 93.94%

Class 3 – 93.64%

Class 4 – 94.58%

Class 5 – 95.04%

Class 6 – 93.52%

Class 7 – 95.07%

Class 8 – 93.97%

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

Wednesday 11th July – KS1 and KS2 Sports Day 9.15am start.

Friday 20th July – Final day of school year

Monday 23rd July - INSET day

Advance notice of Inset days for 2018/19 – school will be closed to pupils but open for staff training on these dates

Monday 3rd September 2018

Friday 26th October 2018

Monday 25th February 2019

Friday 12th April 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019

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.