



# Athersley South Primary School

## First Friday Newsletter—September 2025



Welcome back! First Friday is our monthly newsletter, sent home on the first Friday of every month as we endeavour to keep you fully informed about school life. It has been wonderful to see our school community this week.

### Staffing News

We are delighted to welcome some new members to our staffing team this week and hope you will join us in helping them to settle quickly into our school community.

We send our congratulations to Miss Jewkes as she welcomed the safe arrival of her daughter, who is absolutely gorgeous, in August.

### Breakfast Club

A reminder that all places at Breakfast Club must be pre-booked and paid for no later than midday on the day before the booking is being made for.

### PE, Earrings and Names on Clothing

PE is a statutory part of the curriculum and we would kindly ask that you ensure your child has their PE kit in school on their PE days. This includes trainers/pumps as lessons are often outside, weather permitting. If your child does not bring their kit, school spare kit will be provided. Please can we also politely remind you that children are not allowed to wear earrings for PE lessons. These should be removed before your child comes to school on their PE days. Please be aware that staff are not allowed to cover earrings with plasters or assist your child in removing their earrings.

To support our efforts to return lost clothing it is really helpful if you can put your child's name in all their clothing, including their coat and PE kit. We continue to offer uniform for sale for just 50p an item and if you are unsure about your child's uniform needs, please consult the uniform policy.

### Home-School Communication

Please can we remind you that it is essential that you let us know if you change your phone number or email address.

### Children and Mobile Phones in School

Whilst we do not encourage children to bring mobiles to school, we appreciate some parents and carers like their child to have one for their journey to/from school. Mobiles are collected by staff in a morning and kept until the end of the school day. If you wish your child to bring a phone to school, please collect and complete a form from the school office. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that school takes no responsibility for any damage or loss of mobile phones while in school. Thank you.

### School Car Park

We wish to remind you that the school car park is for staff only. Blue Badge holders can access the car park, but we ask that you show your valid pass to a member of staff in the school office. Please note that the person who holds the badge must themselves be collecting a child from school.

### Who should I speak to?

We very much hope that all our children will settle quickly and you will not have any worries or concerns. However, please can we take this opportunity to remind you that if you have any concerns about your child at all this year you should, in the first instance, contact your child's class teacher who has the most thorough knowledge of your child. If your concerns remain you should make an appointment to speak with a Leader of Learning (EYFS – Miss Pell, KS1 – Mrs Wheelwright, Y3&4 – Mrs Belfield and Y5&6 – Miss Stanley). If you feel that these members of staff have not been able to assist you sufficiently, you should contact either Mr Wheelwright or Mrs Sanderson via the school office.

### School Details

Tel. 01226 284223

Address Wakefield Road, Barnsley S71 3TP

Website: [www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk](http://www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk)

Contact Us: [athersleysouthadmin@ecmtrust.co.uk](mailto:athersleysouthadmin@ecmtrust.co.uk)

## 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. Government guidance dictates that the threshold for persistent absenteeism is 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, Mr. Scarth, 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 ½ a school year.** 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. Smith our Parent Support Advisor and the Headteacher. At this stage parents can face further action such as a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority.

**85% Poor** – This means a pupil has missed almost 30 days in a school year. **In five years this is ¾ 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. Smith 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.