

Time really does fly and October has soon come around! It has been lovely to see school buzzing since we returned in September and everyone is working so hard, which is wonderful.

Local Area Walk

Classes 6, 7 and 8 enjoyed a walk around the local area last week as part of their Geography topic. They enjoyed looking at the land use including buildings and structures. The children were a credit to our school and we are very proud of the behaviours and attitudes that were shown during the walk. Well done!

Harvest

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our Harvest Collection. The goods have been shared with our local food banks to help those who need it most. We feel very lucky to have such kind and generous Parents and Carers.

Visitors in School

We have had an abundance of visitors in school since our last newsletter and it has been lovely to see our children engaging with our visitors.

Balfour Beatty have carried out construction workshops across school. Children have learnt about a career in construction, including different construction methods and had the opportunity to make their own structures.

Y3 enjoyed a visit from South Yorkshire Fire Service to talk about safety. This is an annual visit and is always well received with the children learning about how to stay safe in the family home and what to do in the event of a fire, be it in their family home, at school or elsewhere.

Y3 and Y4 children were lucky to receive a visit from the Sport and Physical Activity Team from Barnsley Council who led a 'Ramp up' session. The children had lots of fun being active and learning important safety rules for when they are out and about on scooters and bikes. They demonstrated lovely manners and lots of confidence on the ramp circuit!

Y5/6 enjoyed a visit from South Yorkshire Police. The session was engaging and informative, covering key topics about how to stay safe on the internet and on mobile phones and other gaming devices. The children responded very positively and showed great interest throughout the session.



Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who has supported our school book fair. It has been lovely to see the enthusiasm and love for reading as children have selected a book.

World Mental Health Day—Friday 10th October

Mrs Smith and Mrs Grange would like to invite Parents and Carers along to a coffee & cake morning in the Art Room starting @ 9am. This is an opportunity to have a chat, share advice, find out more about the services within Barnsley & to support Mental Health with cakes and treats

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

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Address Wakefield Road, Barnsley S71 3TP

Website: www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

Contact Us: 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 a pupil's absence will be closely monitored. Parents may be contacted and may be invited to an internal school attendance panel meeting (ISAP) 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.