

Welcome back after half term. We hope that all of our school community had an enjoyable half term.

Spooky Spectacular Day

Thank you to everyone for all your efforts on our Spooky Spectacular Day before half term. A range of activities were enjoyed across school, from themed writing and maths, disco dancing and party games to art activities. The tuck shop was also popular! The money we raised will be put towards equipment to be used at breaktimes.

Relief SMSAs

We are always keen to expand our relief SMSA numbers. If you are interested in applying, please call into Reception and ask for a job description and an application form.

Christmas Dates and Events—Advance Notice

Before we know it, Christmas will be upon us, so we would like to share some key dates with you all. Further information about events will follow in due course:

Friday 12th December—Festive Jumper Fun Run in aid of Barnsley Hospice and School

Tuesday 16th December—KS1 will perform their nativity to Y1 Parents and Carers in the morning and Parents and Carers of Y2 children in the afternoon.

Wednesday 17th December—Non Uniform Celebration and Party Day for all children in Y1-Y6.

Wednesday 17th December—Christmas lunch will be served in the dining room.

Thursday 18th December—KS2 Christmas Concert with two performances: Parents of Y3/4 children invited in the morning and an afternoon performance for Parents of Y5/6 children.

Friday 19th December—F2 Parents and Carers are invited to a Festive Sing-a-long in the morning. This will be followed by F2's party day.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park Visit

Class 4 and Class 5 had a thoroughly enjoyable visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park in October. They enjoyed a walk around the grounds to view the pieces on display and also took part in a workshop. The behaviour of all of our children was a credit to the school and we are very proud of the way in which the children conducted themselves. Well done!



Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents Evening earlier this week. It was lovely to welcome you into school and we hope you found it useful.

Children in Need—Friday 14th November

We are pleased to be supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal again this year with a non-uniform day on Friday 14th November. For just 50p, children can come to school in their pyjamas, non uniform or something spotty, in keeping with Pudsey Bear's spotty bandana.

Who should I speak to?

We very much hope that all our children are settled in school 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

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.