

With just two weeks until Christmas, please find below information about activities in school and upcoming events.

Singing Workshop

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Wright from Barnsley Youth Choir in to school this week. She held singing workshops with both KS1 and KS2. It was a fabulous morning!



Pupil Voice Summit

We were super proud of two of our Y6 boys who attended a Barnsley Pupil Summit recently with Mrs Gollick. They had the opportunity to meet other pupils, to discuss education and how to improve schools.

Thank you for helping us to raise over £150 for Children in Need!

Christmas Dates and Events

A reminder of the upcoming events in school:

Friday 12th December—Festive Jumper Fun Run in aid of Barnsley Hospice and School. Elf hats provided for ALL children.

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.

Uniform Donations and After School Sales

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your many donations of school uniform that we are able to recycle for others.

We are also extremely grateful to everyone who has supported our recent after school sales and have made them very successful. The proceeds from these sales enable us to continue to subsidise school trips to reduce the costs for all.

Thank you for your continued support.

We are also very thankful to Tesco who continue to support our fundraising efforts with the wealth of donations that they provide.

Y6 Visit to Crucial Crew

Y6 embarked upon a visit to Crucial Crew in Rotherham this week. It is always a fantastic and informative day. South Yorkshire Police and representatives from other agencies deliver scenarios designed to equip young people with the skills to make choices in different situations and to keep themselves safe. It really is a very valuable experience.

Y5 Visit to Wakefield Theatre

Today our wonderful Y5 children are off to Wakefield Theatre to watch the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We were extremely lucky that this trip was very kindly organised and paid for by a benefactor and we are sure that the children will have a fantastic experience (oh no they won't, oh yes they will!).

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

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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.