

Welcome to February's newsletter. We hope you find it informative.

**Reminder**

School closes for half term NEXT Friday, 13th February. Monday 23rd February is an INSET day, so school will be closed, reopening Tuesday 24th.

**Shared Learning 'Bring a Parent to School' Event**

Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who have so far been able to join us in school for our shared learning events. It has been lovely to see so many of you this week. We hope that you enjoyed spending time in the classroom with your child seeing how they learn. We look forward to meeting further Parents and Carers at the remaining sessions in KS2.

**Visitors to school**



January was a busy month for visitors to our school with a Viking and Anglo-Saxons Day for Class 6, 7 & 8 as well as a day of history exploring toys in KS1. Our visitors were

brilliant, imparting lots of knowledge and information, but our children were also super, listening well and developing their historical understanding.

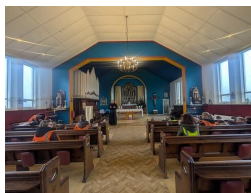


**Staffing Update**

Mr Balmforth, who has been covering Miss Jewkes' maternity leave in Class 4 will have his final day with us next Wednesday, 11th February before he leaves us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Balmforth for the huge contribution he has made to our school during his time with us, and wish him all the very best as he embarks upon a new challenge. Miss Jewkes will be returning from maternity leave on Monday 23rd March, visiting us each Wednesday after half term ahead of her return.

**Class 1 Visit to Laithe's Church**

We were super proud of all Class 1 children who visited Laithe's church this week. They walked super sensibly to the church and were very respectful while there. They learned lots of things and asked lots of thoughtful questions too to further their understanding. Well done Class 1!



**NSPCC Rocks Day**

What a FANTASTIC day we have had in school today. Everybody looked amazing in their outfits for our NSPCC Rocks Day. Thank you to everyone who made a donation to this very worthy cause. Lots of children have also been on TT Rockstars, competing both against other pupils at ASPS and across our family of ECM Trust schools!

**Team Trip Winners**

The Falcons were our Team trip winners from the Autumn Term and they had an afternoon of fun last Week when they were entertained by Magic Daz and Mrs Bumble. Not only did they enjoy fun, magic and laughter, they also enjoyed some sweet treats! Well done Falcons!

**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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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 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.