

Welcome to our March First Friday newsletter.

Advance Notice

School closes for Easter on Friday, 27th March and will be closed for two weeks. We will reopen to all pupils on Monday 13th April.

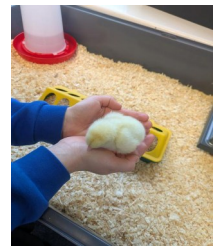
Glow Disco

Thank you to everyone who supported our Glow Disco and a thank you too to the staff who organised this event. It was certainly a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Chicks in Class

We have been very excited for the last two weeks as we have been chick sitting! After receiving 7 eggs after half term, we have watched each of them hatch and the chicks have already grown much bigger, developing their fluffy feathers and different personalities. We have really loved having them but today we say goodbye.



Staffing Update

As you are aware, we said goodbye to Mr Balmforth from Class 4 just before February half term. We look forward to welcoming Miss Jewkes back from her maternity leave on Monday 23rd March. In the meantime she has started to visit us each Wednesday in order to get to know the children ahead of her return.

Miss Mitchell who has been supporting in Class 4 has also now moved on. She is pursuing her teaching career and we wish her every success.

We were delighted earlier this week to welcome back Mrs Sanz to our support team. Mrs Sanz worked with us last year and we are excited to have her back! We also welcome Miss Peet to our support team. She will be working primarily in Class 4 and will be with us until the summer. We hope you will join us in welcoming her to our school.

Library Visits

A number of classes have now visited Laithes library for the afternoon, exploring the range of books available and enjoying reading while there. By the end of the year all classes will have visited.

World Book Day

A HUGE thank you to everyone for all their efforts in supporting World Book Day. It has been lovely today to see the range of outfits and to share our love of books, both fiction and non-fiction. The standard of entries for the plate competition is very high and our reading ambassadors have a tough task ahead when picking the winners!

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.