

Welcome to our May First Friday newsletter. We hope you find it informative.

Reminder

School will be closed on Monday 4th May due to the Bank Holiday. There is also an INSET day on Friday 22nd May so school will be closed to pupils.

Chicks Update

You will recall that our KS1 children recently took delivery of a number of eggs which resulted in a number of chicks. We can confirm that all continue to thrive and are growing very quickly in their new home!



Y4 FREE Scooters

We were recently contacted by The Sport and Physical Activity Team from Barnsley Council as our Y4 children have been selected to take part in a **FREE** Scoot to School Project! This exciting project will run from March – July 2026 and all our Y4 children have received a free scooter and helmet to use during this time, which is brilliant! Prior to the scooters being given out, all of the Y4 children took part in training and enjoyed an afternoon with the 'Ramp up' team, using their scooters on the playground across a series of small ramps. The project aims to encourage all children to be physically active on the way to and from school but recognises some people cannot scoot all the way, so the team have devised a map which indicates a 10 minute scoot to school zone. We very much hope our children enjoy being part of this project and feel very lucky to have been selected.

KS2 Cricket Coach

This half term all of our KS2 children will receive cricket coaching on a Wednesday, in conjunction with Yorkshire Cricket Club. We are very lucky to have been given this opportunity and might find a cricket star of the future!

Polite Reminders

As we move to the better weather that summer will hopefully bring, please can we politely remind you to ensure that your child brings a water bottle with them to school each day, so they can stay hydrated. Also, for those children who bring a packed lunch, a reminder that fizzy drinks, sweets and large chocolate bars should not be included.

Staffing & a New Arrival!

We have been pleased to welcome Miss Jewkes back from her maternity leave. She will be teaching in Class 4 alongside Mrs Gollick. We are also thrilled to be able to share with you that, after beginning her maternity leave last week, earlier than planned, Mrs Redgwick welcomed her new little arrival. We know that you will join us in congratulating her and sending her our very best wishes. For the rest of the summer term, Mrs Hall who many of you may recognise, will be joining the F2 team to cover for Mrs Redgwick. We are delighted to have been able to secure Mrs Hall as she already knows our school well and many of the children.

Clothing and Accessories Sale

Mrs Severn and her team have been busy again in the past month holding their after school sales events. Thank you to everyone who has popped along. Please remember that our school uniform is available at anytime to buy, with items only 50p each. We are also very grateful to Tesco for their ongoing support and donations.

Parents Evening

Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who were able to join us this week for Parents Evening. It was lovely to welcome you into school and we hope you found the meetings useful. Thank you for your ongoing support, it is appreciated.

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.