Athersley South Primary School
First Friday Newsletter—July 2026

Welcome to our final First Friday newsletter of this academic year.

Music Festival for Y5 and Y6

We were SO incredibly proud of our Y5&6 children who performed at the Barnsley Music Festival last week with their brass instruments and demonstrated their percussion skills. What super talented young people we have!

Reminder—Y6 Parents and Carers ONLY

Our Y6 Leavers assembly will be on Friday 17th July at 9am. We hope you will be able to join us for your child's last ever assembly in our school, it's always an emotional one for all involved.

Key Stage 1 Trip

Ks1 had a fabulous time at Eureka last month, exploring everything on display and learning lots of new things!

Our Chicks Returned to Visit!

As you may remember, a few months ago KS1 were lucky enough to watch a collection of eggs hatch and took care of some baby chicks. Some of the 'chicks' returned to see KS1 a few weeks ago and they are certainly not small chicks anymore! KS1 loved to see the full grown chickens and enjoyed spending time with them!

Mayan Visitor

Classes 4 and 5 had a wonderful day learning all about the Ancient Maya civilisation this week. They learnt about the creation story and Maya beliefs, a very new way of doing maths, examined artefacts and were super creative with clay and paint! Such a great day!

Sports Day

A HUGE thank you to everyone who attended our EYFS, KS1 and/or KS2 sports day. We were incredibly proud of all of our children for their efforts and for supporting each other.

School's Got Talent!

The countdown is on and we cannot wait for our School's Got Talent final next week. All of our finalists have been busy practising their set with Mrs Larkin and we are excited for their performances!

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

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Website: www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

Contact Us: athersleysouthadmin@ecmtrust.co.uk

Attendance

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.