Athersley South Primary School

Wakefield Road, Barnsley, S71 3TP

Tel: 01226 284223

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs E. Sanderson
Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Wheelwright

30th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Mrs Whalley and I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Athersley South Primary School from September.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I am a mum to two children, aged 5 and 9, and I have worked in education for over 15 years. During my career, I have held a range of leadership roles, including Director of Early Reading and Phonics, Assistant Headteacher and, for the last three years, Headteacher at a primary school in Wakefield. I feel incredibly privileged to lead schools and to have the opportunity to make a positive difference to children's lives.

Over the past few months, I have been working closely with the staff team to get to know the school, its routines and the many strengths that make Athersley South such a special place. I have also spent time speaking with staff and pupils to understand what they value most and where we can continue to improve.

One thing that has stood out to me straight away is how warm and welcoming your children have been. Every visit has been filled with smiles, excited hellos and big cuddles! They have made me feel part of the school community already.

As parents and carers, your views are equally important to me. I believe that the best schools are built on strong partnerships between home and school, and I would really value hearing your thoughts, ideas and aspirations for Athersley South. Please could you take a few moments to complete the Microsoft Form using the link below? Your feedback will help to shape our priorities for the next academic year.

https://forms.office.com/e/EQPdtsrCY7

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in person over the coming weeks. I will be attending the school's Summer Concert on Friday 3rd July and hope this will be a lovely opportunity to see our pupils in the spotlight. Please do come and say hello if you see me.

I am excited to become part of the Athersley South community and look forward to working with our pupils, staff, parents and carers to ensure every child is happy, safe, valued and inspired to achieve their very best.

Thank you for your support. I wish you and your families a wonderful summer and look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Whalley