



# Athersley South Primary School

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[www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk](http://www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk)

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



14<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

We recently sent out a questionnaire to you all to support our evaluation of the school. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaires, we really do appreciate your feedback and opinions. It was lovely to hear your positive comments about what you feel we are doing well and we are also grateful to those of you who suggested ways in which we could further improve.

In response to the questionnaires we have produced a 'You Said, Our Response' table with regard to the areas in which you feel we could improve as a school. This can be seen below so you can see what action we are proposing where necessary. A full analysis and presentation of the questionnaires can also be found on the school website <https://www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk/letters-home.html>

Parents/Carers Said...	ASPS Response
I would like to have access to the curriculum to know what issues and topics are covered in lessons/I think we should be more informed about the learning programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our curriculum is mapped out on the school website and can be viewed at any time.</li> <li>Each term, each phase in school sends out a newsletter detailing what the children will be learning in the term ahead. The next newsletter is due out in January 2023.</li> </ul>
More school trips and experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We too would like to provide more school visits, and have reintroduced these since Covid, with each Year Group from Y1-6 enjoying at least one visit out last year. With huge rises in costs, particularly in relation to coach hire, we have to be mindful of the implications for school and yourselves and ensure value for money.</li> <li>This academic year two year groups have already enjoyed a visit out.</li> <li>In addition to educational visits, we also try to arrange visitors into school to enhance childrens' learning. In recent months this has included our Spanish Day and, most recently, we arranged for an owl display for our EYFS children. In January, KS1 also have a visitor planned (but we won't spoil that surprise!).</li> <li>By the end of this academic year we hope that all children will have the opportunity to participate in an educational visit.</li> <li>Finally, the local sports competitions are now resuming to pre-covid levels and we will continue to participate in these. The cross-country event in October was attended by all KS2 children and most recently our Y5/6 girls were crowned football champions, not losing a single game at their tournament at Barnsley College 😊</li> </ul>
More updates on the Class blogs on the website School App to share learning and photographs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Class has a blog on the website where their learning can be seen. Our intention is for these to be updated each half term but we acknowledge that some pages are more up to date than others and will seek to rectify this.</li> <li>We are currently finalising plans for the return of class assemblies. This will also allow Parents/Carers to see what each class has been learning about and doing.</li> </ul>

Encourage children to eat their lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our SMSAs do encourage all children to eat as much of their dinner as they can. They are not able to make them eat, but do offer verbal encouragement, cut their food and incentives, such as stickers.</li> </ul>
Less emails, sometimes there are too many in one day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where possible, we do try to ensure we don't send out multiple emails in one day and, taking on board this feedback, will be mindful of this moving forward.</li> </ul>
Form school sports teams and inspire children to learn about other skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With school games events resumed, we will have more team events. Recently, school was represented at a football tournament and further events are planned including dodgeball and orienteering.</li> <li>This term, and after Christmas, we have sourced specialist teachers for gymnastics and dance with children accessing lessons in school and opportunities to attend after school sessions as well.</li> </ul>
Introduce drama and acting and have a school play once a year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-covid a whole school show was held in July each year. We are hopeful that this tradition will resume this academic year. The whole school helps prepare, including scenery, prop and costume design, with our KS2 children performing on the night, singing and acting.</li> <li>To develop performance skills we also have our KS1 choir &amp; KS2 Glee Club</li> <li>This year we have tried to broaden our after school and lunch time activities offer including our Eco Group and the Debating Club.</li> </ul>
A platform, APP and/or electronic updates about what children are doing in EYFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are currently working with a new company to establish an app where Parents/Carers will be access photos of their child/activities in setting and also upload photos from home for staff to view.</li> <li>To enhance communication with Parents, our EYFS staff have also begun to send out a monthly newsletter that details what the children are currently learning about.</li> </ul>
More praise for children not just 'Learner of the Week' to boost confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to Learner of the Week, we do have other forms of praise and reward in school. Children are able to earn success stones for their 'team', can receive stickers and/or visit other teachers/staff to share their amazing work. Children who visit Mrs Sanderson and/or Mr Wheelwright have their photo and achievement shared on our Praise Page on the website too.</li> <li>All children in class work towards being 'Class of the Week' too and the winners receive the trophy and £5 for their class to bank and spend within the school year.</li> </ul>
The attendance protocol is far too extreme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As with all schools, we have to follow strict Government guidelines in relation to school attendance. In addition, to meet safeguarding guidelines, we are required to conduct safe and well visits when children are not in school. Our attendance policy is graduated and it is always our intention to work with, and support, families to enable good school attendance.</li> </ul>
The behaviour policy is outdated..... children see it as a threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our behaviour policy seeks to balance rewards and incentives on offer for children who behave in line with school expectations, while having appropriate sanctions for those children who do not follow our school rules. It is important that children show respect and follow rules, a skill for life. Where inappropriate behaviour occurs, we seek to respond in a restorative manner and allow children to reflect and take responsibility.</li> </ul>
Get children to wash their hands more often	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The children wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including before and after break, lunch and other activities. In addition, our EYFS children always wash their hands when returning inside from their outdoor play. Since the pandemic, we have observed more frequent and effective handwashing on the children's part.</li> </ul>

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support.  
Yours sincerely

Mrs E. Sanderson