



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 8

April 2023

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had an enjoyable Easter. Due to the holiday this month's edition of First Friday comes well into the month!

Staffing Update

We have recently been successful in recruiting two members of staff to our team. Our new PSA, and a part time administrative assistant, will join us later this term and we look forward to welcoming them to our school.

Parents Evening

You should all have received an email with a letter regarding Parents Evenings. These will be held next Tuesday 25th April and Wednesday 26th April and appointments should be booked online. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact the school office who will be able to advise you over the telephone and talk you through the booking process. We very much look forward to seeing you to discuss your child's progress.

School Uniform Sale

We would like to remind you that we have an extensive range of school uniform available to buy from school. Items cost just 50p each and we have a range of sizes available. If you are interested in looking for some items, please contact the school office. Alternatively, some items will be available on the Parents Evening dates.

Film Nights

F2 and KS1 held their film night earlier this week and enjoyed a movie and snacks. KS2 have a film night coming up soon too and we hope they enjoy their film as much as the younger children did 😊. Thanks to all those who attended and supported our event this week.

Easter Egg Competition

A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in our Easter Egg eggstravaganza. All the entries were eggcellent and you can view them on the school website on the class blogs. Our school council had the eggxtra tricky job of judging the entrants with the winners receiving an Easter egg. All entrants also received a chocolate Easter lolly for their efforts.

Class Assemblies

An email has been sent out to confirm that we will be holding class assemblies over the summer term, to which Parents & Carers are invited. Below is a reminder of the dates for your diaries:

Friday 21st April – Class 1

Friday 28th April – Class 6

Friday 5th May – Class 7

Friday 19th May – Class 5

Thursday 25th May – Class 4

Friday 9th June – Class 2

Friday 16th June – Class 3

Friday 23rd June – Class 8

Friday 30th June – Class 9

Eco Schools Update

This month in Eco Club we have been busy thinking about new ways we can work towards our Eco School goals and help look after our planet. Children in Class 7 have made some posters and PowerPoint presentations giving advice on saving water, look out for them appearing on the school website. While children in Class 4 have been planting and sowing seeds of fruit and vegetables to work towards our Healthy Living target. Hopefully we'll get to sample some of our produce soon!

Weekly Story and Rhyme Session at Roundhouse Library

We have been asked by the local community library at the Roundhouse to share with you that they are starting 'Story and Rhyme' sessions on a Thursday from 10.00-10.45am. The centre has been newly refurbished and the library staff are keen to attract new and previous visitors. All sessions are free and there is no need to book. Please contact the library directly if you have any further questions.

Attendance

At Athersley South we have high expectations of all children in relation to punctuality and attendance. Please can we remind you that if your child is late they must enter school via the main school office, this includes any children in F1 or F2. If your child cannot attend school for any reason please contact the main school office on (01226) 284223 before 9.30am.

School will contact families if an absence has not been reported. This is because we have a statutory duty to ensure all children are safe. Our EWO this year is Mr D. Scarth. His role is to work with school and families to offer support, advice and guidance where punctuality and attendance causes concern. In such cases, we may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with our PSA and Mr Scarth. Home visits may also take place as and when necessary. If your child will not be in school for any reason other than illness you will need to complete a 'Request for Leave of Absence' form, available at the office.

Concerns

A reminder that if you have any concerns, please see your child's class teacher in the first instance or the teacher in charge of their phase in school (Miss Pell, Mrs Wheelwright, Mrs Belfield or Miss Stanley). If they cannot resolve your issue it can be referred to Mr Wheelwright, our Deputy Headteacher or Mrs Sanderson, Headteacher. A copy of the complaints policy is also available on our website.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 1st May – Bank Holiday – School closed

Monday 8th May – King's Coronation Bank Holiday – School closed

Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May – Y6 SATS

Friday 26th May – INSET Day – School closed to pupils, open for staff training

Monday 29th May-Friday 2nd June – Half Term – School closed

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 our EWO, Mr Scarth, will be informed and a pupil's absence will be monitored. Parents may be contacted and may be invited to an internal school panel meeting in school.

90% attendance means a pupil has missed almost 20 days in a school year. In five years this is $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 our Parent Support Advisor, Mr Scarth our EWO and the Headteacher. At this stage parents can face further action such as a Fixed Penalty Notice.

85% Poor – This means a pupil has missed almost 30 days in a school year. **In five years this is $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 our PSA 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.