

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back for the third and final term of this year.

Staffing Updates

As you are all aware, after a significant number of years at ASPS, Mrs Hale left us before Easter in order to set up her own business. We will miss her and wish her lots of luck with her new venture. Miss Baranski, who some of you will remember from her previous time at our school, has returned and will be working in F1 (nursery) on a Monday, Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays. We hope you will join us in welcoming her back. We would also like to inform you that Mrs Bates, who primarily works in EYFS and KS1, will now be known as Miss Beaumont.

Y6 Fundraising Run

Last half term our Y6 children took it upon themselves to raise enough money to attend Sheffield Lyceum Theatre to watch a production of 'The Boy at the Back of the Class', a book they had previously read and enjoyed. We are SO proud of their efforts. They set themselves a sponsored challenge to run 100 miles (collectively) in just 40 minutes. They were successful, running 104 miles! Everyone gave 100% and in doing so raised £1700. This not only funded their visit but there is some money left which will be used for a further event in the summer term. Well done to everyone who took part and a HUGE thank you to all the parents, carers, friends and family who sponsored the children.



Parent Governor

Following the recent Parent Governor ballot, we can announce that Mrs Millington will be joining the Governing Body.

Team Reward

Last term the Eagles were the winning team across school. As a reward for achieving the most success stones for their hard work and effort, they were rewarded with a trip to the bowling alley. Despite the miserable weather, which made for a wet walk there and back, the enthusiasm from the children was not dampened and they had a fabulous time. There was some real competition and close scores in some cases. This week the race to earn the most success stones this term has begun and we look forward to seeing all the children working hard in the weeks ahead.

Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents Evening. It was lovely to see so many of you and we hope you enjoyed looking at your child's work too. Our clothing sale during the event raised almost £60! Thank you to all who supported and bought items.

Class Assemblies

This week you should have received an email regarding class assemblies. All KS1 & KS2 classes look forward to welcoming you into school this term to share their incredible learning. We hope you will be able to join us.

Who should I speak to?

We very much hope that 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 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, LKS2 – Mrs. Belfield and UKS2 – 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.

Attendance

At Athersley South we have high expectations of all children in relation to punctuality and attendance. The following is a reminder of the start and finish times for different parts of school. 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 FS1 or FS2.

FS1 morning 8:40 – 11:40am FS1 afternoon – 12.25-3.25

FS2 8:45am – 3:15pm

KS1 8:45am – 3:15pm and KS2 8:50am – 3:20pm.

If your child cannot attend school, please contact the office on (01226) 284223 before 9.30am. Mrs. Smith will contact families if an absence has not been reported. This is because we have a statutory duty to ensure all children are safe. Mr. Scarth continues to be our EWO this year and his role is to work with school and families to offer support, advice and guidance where punctuality and attendance causes concern. In such cases, Mrs. Smith may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with Mrs Smith 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 school office.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 24th May – INSET day, school closed to pupils

Monday 27th -Friday 31st May Spring Bank Holiday, 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 Mrs. Smith 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 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.