

As we prepare to break up, we just have time for April's edition of First Friday which gives an update on events that have happened recently, as well as upcoming events after the holiday. We hope you find it informative.

Relief SMSAs

We are always on the look out to recruit relief SMSAs to cover at lunchtime when our contracted staff are absent. If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please call at Reception for an application form.

Bikeability

Congratulations to all our Y5 children who successfully completed their bikeability course with Active Barnsley last month. We are very proud of you all and your efforts. Well done!

Class Assemblies

As detailed in the communication sent out earlier this week, we are looking forward to welcoming you into school for Class Assemblies during the Summer Term. The dates for your diary are as follows:

Date	Class Assembly
Friday 25 th April 2025	Class 6
Friday 2 nd May 2025	Class 1
Friday 9 th May 2025	Class 7
Friday 6 th June 2025	Class 5
Friday 13 th June 2025	Class 4
Friday 20 th June 2025	Class 3
Friday 27 th June 2025	Class 2
Friday 4 th July 2025	Class 8
Friday 11 th July 2025	Class 9

A reminder that we break up for a two week holiday today, returning to school on TUESDAY 22nd April.

Date for your Diary

Please be aware that there is an INSET day on Friday 23rd May.

Story Shell

We were incredibly lucky on Monday to have a 'Story Shell' appear in our hall! You may have seen it previously in Barnsley town centre last year, but Barnsley libraries brought it to us. The shell is designed to be an immersive experience and to transport the children into a world of story and imagination. As an extra bonus, the Concerteenies also joined us to run some musical storytimes in the shell with KS1. Everyone really enjoyed their visit.



Who should I speak to?

We very much hope that all our children will settle quickly 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, 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.

School Details

Tel. 01226 284223

Address Wakefield Road, Barnsley S71 3TP

Website: www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

Contact Us: athersleysouthadmin@ecmtrust.co.uk

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 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, 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 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.