



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 4
December 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this month's newsletter and updates.

Eco Schools Update

This month, children from Years 5 and 6 have been working on Eco Schools. They looked at the results from our environmental review and choose three areas for our school to develop over the rest of the school year. There were some amazing conversations between the children that really demonstrated an awareness of the world and the issues and challenges we face. They have chosen Healthy Lifestyles, Energy and Water as our main areas to focus on. It will be the turn of Years 1 and 2 next to begin working on these areas.

Rescued Hedgehog

One of our eagle-eyed Y6 children found a poorly hedgehog last Friday, after school, within the school grounds. We are delighted that he is now in Hedgehog Hospital and is recovering well. Thanks to Mrs Walch for transporting him there. If you look on the Wellbeing page on the website you can see his progress 😊.

Wellbeing Tab

On our school website we now have a mental health and wellbeing tab and Mrs Walch will keep this updated with suggestions for supporting both our own, and childrens' mental health and wellbeing and also information about other services that can support families beyond school. We will also update this page when Bernard, our therapy dog, has been to visit 😊 This link will take you straight to the page <https://www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Crucial Crew

Our Y6 children will be visiting the Lifewise Centre in Rotherham next week for our annual visit to Crucial Crew. This promises to be an exciting day!

INSET Day

A reminder that school closes for the Christmas break on Friday 16th December and re-opens to pupils on Wednesday 4th January. Please be aware that Tuesday 3rd January is an INSET day so only staff will be in attendance.

Christmas Performance Tickets

These will be sent out with your child on Monday 5th December.

School Uniform Sale

Thank you to everyone who attended our school uniform and book sale during Parents Evening in November. We are delighted to have raised over £80. Your ongoing support is much appreciated. If at any time your child is in need of school uniform, please contact the school office. We have a huge range of items available for girls and boys in various sizes with each item only 50p. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their donations too.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone for their fabulous efforts for our Children in Need non uniform day in November. Thanks to your kind donations we were able to donate over £150.

Healthy Holidays

Barnsley Council are running their healthy holiday clubs for Christmas this year! There are many clubs/activities taking place across the borough for children and young people to take part in which include sport, crafts, activities and much more! Every club provides a FREE nutritious meal for every young person who attends. Children and young people on FREE schools' meals have priority booking places at the clubs, with some opening places up to any young person who wants to attend. This is a great opportunity for the young people of Barnsley to stay connected and socialise in a safe environment over the festive period, while building new healthy friendships and improve on their social skills! More information can be found via this link

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/children-young-people-and-families/healthy-holidays/book-to-attend-a-healthy-holidays-club/>
<https://www.barnsley-museums.com/whats-on>
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/libraries/activities-and-events/>

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 – currently closed

FS2 and KS1 8:45am – 3:15pm

KS2 8:50am – 3:20pm.

If your child cannot attend school for any reason please contact the main school office on (01226) 284223 before 9.30am.

Mrs Smart 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 will be 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, Mrs Smart may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with Mrs Smart 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.

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 Buckle, 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 Smart 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 Smart 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.