

Welcome to December's edition of First Friday. This month's newsletter gives an update on what's been happening in school and upcoming events, we hope you find it informative.

Fundraising Update

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone for your fantastic support for our Children in Need day back in November. We raised a total of £172.00 for the very worthy charity and your donations will make a difference. Thank you.

Halloween, Christmas and School Uniform Sales

As you are aware we have an abundance of nearly new, sometimes new, school clothing available to purchase, at a very small cost. We continue to work with Tesco and are really grateful for their support. Their donations really do make a difference. Recent sales, including uniform, Halloween and Christmas clothing have raised over £550 for school funds. Thank you to everyone for supporting these events. Please do contact school if you have any uniform

ASDA Cashpot for Schools—WOW WOW WOW!



An absolutely HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Cashpot for Schools fundraising initiative. We are delighted to have raised an INCREDIBLE £857.39

Christmas Cacti

From Monday 9th December we will have a small number of hand crafted cacti for sale in Reception. Lovingly made by Mrs Simpson, they come wearing a Christmas hat, but with an additional cowboy hat for non festive times. These are a bargain at just £5 with all proceeds going to school. Limited stock available!



Studybugs APP

A reminder that we are now using 'Studybugs' to support attendance. This is an easy to use App that enables you to communicate with school about your child's attendance. If you do report an absence, Studybugs will also send you specific health advice back and indicate how long your child needs to remain absent from school for. It also automatically updates our registers so you will not receive a 'N' code message. Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far.

Reminder of Festive Events

- Wednesday 11th December—Christmas Dinner and festive non uniform day
- Monday 16th December @ 9.15am KS2 Carols for Y3&4 Parents/Carers to attend
- Tuesday 17th December @ 9.15am KS2 Carols for Y5&6 Parents/Carers to attend
- Wednesday 18th December—KS1 Nativity—9.15am for Y1 Parents/Carers & 2.15pm for Y2 Parents and Carers
- Friday 20th December @ 9.15am F2 Sing-a-long for F2 Parents/Carers

Sharing Learning Event

We look forward to inviting you into school in January for a 'Sharing Learning Event' when you will be able to spend time with your child in their classroom. More details to follow in the New Year.

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.