

Happy New Year to everyone. We hope you all had an enjoyable break. Welcome to our January edition of First Friday which gives an update on events prior to Christmas and upcoming events. We hope you find it informative.



Team Trip Winners

FALCONS were the winning team in the Autumn Term and on the final day of term they enjoyed a Pantomime with snacks, treats and a drink too. Well done to all the Falcons for earning the most success stones!



Cartons of Milk

We have noticed many children frequently leaving their milk. In our efforts to reduce waste, we would kindly ask that you only order milk for your child if they want it on a daily basis. Staff will alert you if your child is regularly declining their milk.

Fundraising Update

Cacti and Christmas Gifts and Raffles

Thank you to everyone who supported our pre-Christmas fundraising efforts. The sale of Cacti, Christmas items and the raffles held at each of the performances enabled us to raise a total of almost £500. Wow!

Barnsley Hospice

Thank you to everyone who participated in our festive non uniform day in December. We were pleased to raise £137 for Barnsley Hospice, a very worthy cause.

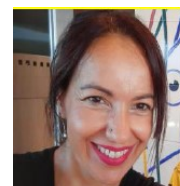
Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome two learning support assistants and a HLTA to our team for the rest of this academic year. Mrs Ainsworth joins our EYFS team in a morning and Mrs Sanz joins us in KS2. Mrs Sung will be with us on a Tuesday and Wednesday as a HLTA.

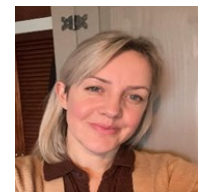
Mrs Ainsworth



Mrs Sanz



Mrs Sung



NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children/adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice & treatment where appropriate, for 7 common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service can help children feel better and be back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting yourselves to also get better if you are unwell with 1 of the conditions covered under the service. There is no need to make an appointment; you can visit your local pharmacy with your child (or for yourself) and ask for help under the service. Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

- *Earache (1-17yrs)
- *Impetigo (aged 1 year & over)
- *Infected Insect Bites and Stings (1 year & over)
- *Sore Throats (5 years & over)
- *Sinusitis (12 years & over)
- *Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infection (16-64 years)
- *Shingles (18 years & over)

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.