



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 11

July 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the last edition of First Friday this academic year. Time has really flown by and it is hard to believe it is nearly time for us to say goodbye to our current Y6 children. We hope you find these updates helpful.

Staffing Update

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Etherington to ASPS. She will be working in our main school office on a Thursday and a Friday. This means that at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Royles who has been covering while we recruited to the post. We are very grateful to Mrs Royles for her commitment to the role and we will miss her as she moves into retirement.

Eco Schools Update

We are delighted to announce that we have PASSED our Eco-school Green Flag Award 😊 This is as a result of the fantastic work of Mrs Webb, Mr Simpson and the eco committee who have been working tirelessly this year in school. Congratulations to everyone, what an achievement!

Pirates of the Curry Bean

After last night's first showing of the Pirates of the Curry Bean, we look forward to the final performance tonight. We are SO incredibly proud of everyone for contributing to the show, either on the night or during the preparation period. You are all WONDERFUL!

Sports Day

Thank you to everyone who attended our Sports Days this week. We were really proud of all our children who were enthusiastic in their participation. The overall team winner will be announced in assembly 😊.

School's Got Talent

The final of School's Got Talent will take place next week. All contestants have been busy rehearsing and refining their performance ahead of the grand final! We cannot wait!

Transition to New Classes

On Wednesday 12th July all children will 'shuffle up' to their new class for the day and meet their new teacher. Children should arrive at school and enter via their normal classroom door and, at home time, children will leave by their ordinary door too. After school, from 3.30-4.30pm you are invited to meet your child's new teacher, to find out more about school life and talk with staff from school, including our leadership team. We hope you are able to join us.

Books to go home – bring a bag!

On the week beginning Monday 17th July your child will be bringing home some of their books from this year. Please can we ask that you send them with a suitable bag/carrier bag in which they can carry their books.

Summer Fayre

Thank you to everyone who has supported our chocolate and bottle collections ahead of the summer fayre next week. Weather permitting, the event will take place next TUESDAY 11th July, straight after school. There will be a bottle tombola, a chocolate tombola, 'Splat the Rat', cake stall, stress balls, name a teddy as well as the infamous 'Throw a wet sponge at Miss Stanley or Mr Wheelwright' and even more! We very much hope you are able to join us.

Class Assemblies

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to attend our class assemblies during the last term. It has been wonderful for the children to share their great learning with you all.

Y6 Leavers Assembly

We look forward to welcoming Parents and Carers of Y6 children to their Leavers assembly on the very last day of term, Friday 21st July.

Attendance

At Athersley South we have high expectations of all children in relation to punctuality and attendance. 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 F1 or F2. If your child cannot attend school for any reason please contact the main school 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. Our EWO this year continues to 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 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.

Concerns

A reminder that if you have any concerns, please see your child's class teacher in the first instance or the teacher in charge of their phase in school (Miss Pell, Mrs Wheelwright, Mrs Belfield or Miss Stanley). If they cannot resolve your issue it can be referred to Mr Wheelwright, our Deputy Headteacher or Mrs Sanderson, Headteacher. Our complaints policy is also available on our website.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 12th July 2023 – Transition Day and Meeting for Parents/Carers

Friday 21st July 2023 – Final Day of the academic year.

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, our PSA, 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.