

As we fast approach the end of the academic year, please find below this month's First Friday news.
 We hope you find it informative.

School's Council Visit to Town Hall

Our school council members were invited to visit the Mayor and Mayoress last week. They had a fantastic time looking around the Town Hall, trying on the junior Mayoral robes and engaged enthusiastically in a question and answer session with the Mayor. He commented they were the best questions he'd ever been asked!



Transition

We can confirm that our transition arrangements have been finalised for this year. All children in F2 upwards will spend a whole day in their new class on Wednesday 16th July. During the day they will be introduced to the classroom, the teachers and support staff they will be working with and they will have the opportunity to complete some tasks and activities to enable staff to better get to know the children and vice-versa. The children will also contribute to the classroom environment for the coming year, ensuring that they have some familiarity within their surroundings when they return in September. A letter with more information will follow

Y5 Visit to the Theatre

Our Y5 children had a fantastic time watching Mary Poppins at Bradford Theatre and we were really proud of their exceptional behaviour.

Flu Vaccination

It may seem early to be mentioning flu vaccinations but the health team have asked that we share the link to their consent form ahead of the Autumn Term. It is important to click on the link and complete the form even if you do not want your child to have the vaccination. Once you click on the link you will be asked for our unique code which is **BN147717** The form can be accessed via this link www.barnsleysais.co.uk/Forms/Flu

Free Fruit, Healthy Tuckshop and Frozen Fridays

EYFS and KS1 continue to receive free fruit daily for their snack. KS2 now have a healthy tuck shop each 'Mini Munch Monday'. Thank you also to everyone who supports our Frozen Friday sales!

Class Assemblies

Just 2 class assemblies remain with Class 9's next Friday 11th July at 9am and Class 1's assembly which has been rearranged for Friday 18th July.

Sports Day & Summer Fair

KS1 & KS2 Sports day is next Wednesday, 9th July and our summer fair is on Friday 18th July.

Arts Week and Show

It's almost SHOWTIME! Tickets are now available to purchase for both performances on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th July. We cannot wait to see everyone

Mi Card

You may be aware that Barnsley have launched a bus pass to entitle ALL children between 5 and 18 to FREE bus travel if a journey begins or ends in Barnsley. Applications can be made from next Monday, 7th July and we would strongly encourage you to make the most of this offer! You can apply here Barnsley Micard - Travel South Yorkshire

Who should I speak to?

We very much hope that all our children are happy in school 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 any time 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.