



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 7
March 2023

Dear Parents,

Please find below updates and information for your attention.

Staffing Update

Mrs Barlow

We would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to Mrs Barlow who will not be returning to her position in the school office. She has been a long standing member of staff, who has been committed to the children of Athersley South for twenty five years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Barlow for her huge contribution to the school and wish her well for the future.

Mrs Smart

As per our communication last week, Mrs Smart, our PSA has decided to leave ASPS for personal reasons. We wish her every success for the future. A recruitment drive has begun to find a replacement and we will keep you updated.

NSPCC Rocks!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our NSPCC Rocks day. We were able to raise over £120 for the NSPCC and everyone looked superb too. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to collect points for their class by going on TT rockstars. The top 3 classes overall for points were:

1. Class 8
2. Class 9
3. Class 4

Well done everyone 😊

Eco Schools Update

Some children from Class 6 took part in an Eco Schools Quiz and decided that we could do a 'School Clean Up'. Six children, Mr Simpson and Mrs Webb did a lunchtime litter pick near the front and back entrances to school to make sure that there was no harmful litter that could seriously injure or kill wildlife on school grounds. It also looked a lot nicer too!

Easter Egg Competition – ADVANCE notice

This year will see the return of our 'Decorate an Egg' Easter competition and our children will be voting for their favourites. We look forward to everyone's EGGstravagant ideas and creations! The competition will be held on the final week of this half term.

Residential

For a week before February half term, 24 Y5/6 children along with Mr Wheelwright and Mrs Gollick enjoyed a week long residential in Ullswater. The weather was particularly kind this year and allowed the children the opportunity to participate in activities on the calm lake. They were also able to admire the stunning scenery from the heights of the fells. There are some photos on the website and if your child is considering attending next year, the photos give a real flavour of how brilliant a week they have

<https://www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk/residential.html>

World Book Day

Wow! What a brilliant day it was yesterday in school. Everyone looked amazing and it was fabulous to see and hear so many children sharing their reading favourites and talking about books. In the afternoon, all children rotated round 6 different adults and shared the adult's favourite children's book, finishing with a hot chocolate and a chocolate biscuit. A number of children were also able to participate in our first 'book swap' and we hope to be able to repeat this in the future. Thank you for your support in enabling yesterday to be a success and to Mrs Wheelwright too who organised the day.

Early Notice – Parents Evening

Our next Parents Evening will be held on Tuesday 25th April and Wednesday 26th April. More details will be sent in due course.

School Uniform Sale

We would like to remind you that we have an extensive range of school uniform available to buy from school. Items cost just 50p each and we have a range of sizes available. If you are interested in looking for some items, please contact the school office.

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 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.

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. A copy of the complaints policy is also available on our website.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 3rd-Friday 14th April – Easter Holidays. School closed.
Monday 17th April – School reopens.

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.