

Welcome to our March edition of First Friday which gives an update on events prior to this month, as well as upcoming events. We hope you find it informative.

### World Book Day

It was fabulous to see everyone arriving at school today to celebrate World Book Day, many with their paper plate entries for the competition. Thank you to everyone for supporting this. We look forward to welcoming Parents and Carers this afternoon for a hot chocolate and a story with their child towards the end of the school day.

### Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported our school book fair before half term. We are delighted to have raised £400 from this event. Mrs Wheelwright and Miss Taylor will be working in conjunction with our reading ambassadors and school council to identify some new texts that we can buy for our classrooms and in the library.

### NSPCC Rocks

Our NSPCC Rockstar day in February raised £100 for a very worthy cause. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts and looked amazing in their rockstar clothing too.

### Y5 Bikeability

Later this month we are looking forward to welcoming Active Barnsley into school to work with our Y5 children around bike safety and maintenance. The children will learn how to stay safe on their bikes on the road, with an opportunity to practise on local streets. A letter will be sent out in due course to enable children to sign up. This year we are also hoping to offer some 'Learn to Ride' sessions for children to increase their confidence ahead of the Bikeability course.

### Spring Term Parents' Meetings

We are pleased to share advance information about our Spring Term Parents' Meetings. For children in F2 to Y6 these will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and will be face to face appointments. Appointments will be available with your child's class teacher from 3.30pm until 6.15pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and 5.15pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Arrangements for Parents' meetings for children in F1 will be slightly different, with appointments available on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. A letter will all the details, including how to book appointments will be sent out next week.

### Y3/4 Romans Day

On Tuesday this week we were delighted to welcome 'Maximus', a Roman soldier into school to support our Y3/4 children with their history learning. He shared stories about the start of the Roman Empire, taught us some games and brought artefacts for us to look at. It was a very busy and fun day, with lots of learning too.



### 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](http://www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk)

Contact Us: [athersleysouthadmin@ecmtrust.co.uk](mailto: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.