



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 9

May 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this month's First Friday.

Team Trip

During the Spring Term the Eagles team were successful in being awarded the most success stones across school. As their reward, all the children within the Eagles team enjoyed a visit from Zoolab. Eleanor, our technician for the day, showed the children a selection of animals, including a scorpion, snake and a giant millipede. It was a very exciting experience with some children handling the animals and learning about how they need to be cared for at the same time. Well done to the Eagles team 😊. All team points returned to zero at Easter and the competition for the next Team Treat has now begun!

TESCO Books

Throughout May, if you shop at the big Tesco, and buy any of the books from behind the tills, all the money raised will be donated to our school. Please share this with family and friends so we can try to raise as much money as possible.

EYFS

Please can we politely remind you that the resources on the EYFS grass and playground are **not** for children to get out and use while they are waiting for their siblings or for school to start/finish. Last week staff had to speak to children climbing on our equipment they also had to spend 45 minutes putting things back where they belonged having already tidied the resources before the end of the school day. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Arts Week

Later this month we see the return of our annual arts week, with preparations for our end of year show now underway. Rehearsals for those performing in the show are progressing well and we are excited that, after an absence due to covid, our whole school show is BACK! Put the dates in your diary, show nights will be Thursday 6th July and Friday 7th July!

School's Got Talent

We are delighted to give you advance notice that we will be holding a School's Got Talent competition again this year. Auditions will take place in early June, with the Grand Final being held in July. If your child wishes to enter, please encourage them to start practising their talent now so they can refine and perfect their performance ahead of the auditions.

School Uniform Sale

Thank you to everyone who visited our school uniform sale during Parents Evening. We were able to raise over £50 😊.

Film Nights

F2, KS1 and KS2 thoroughly enjoyed their film nights, watching a film and enjoying some treats too 😊 Thank you to everyone who supported this event. Once we know how much money we were able to receive for school funds we will let you know.

Parents Evening

It was lovely to see so many Parents and Carers at Parents Evening last week. While that was our final Parents Evening of the year, you will of course receive your child's school report at the end of July.

Class Assemblies

As you will be aware, our class assemblies have now begun and it has been a pleasure to welcome many of you to school already to see the great work that has been completed so far this academic year by classes 1, 6 and 7.

A reminder of the assemblies still to be held:

Friday 19th May – Class 5

Thursday 25th May – Class 4

Friday 9th June – Class 2

Friday 16th June – Class 3

Friday 23rd June – Class 8

Friday 30th June – Class 9

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.

School 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 is 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, we may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with our PSA 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 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

Monday 8th May – King's Coronation – School closed

Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May - Y6 SATS

Friday 26th May – INSET Day – School closed to pupils

Monday 29th May-Friday 2nd June – Half Term

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 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 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.