



Athersley South Primary School

First Friday Newsletter—May 2025



We hope you all had an enjoyable break in the school holidays. As usual, this month's First Friday contains information about things happening in school. We hope you find it informative.

School's Got Talent

We are SO excited to announce that School's Got Talent is back again this year! Auditions will take place during week beginning Monday 2nd June. Although this seems some time away, it is not too early to start the rehearsing!

Class Assemblies

We are delighted to have started our Class Assemblies and look forward to welcoming you in the weeks and months ahead to your child's assembly. Below is a reminder of the dates.

Friday 9 th May 2025	Class 7
Friday 6 th June 2025	Class 5
Friday 13 th June 2025	Class 4
Friday 20 th June 2025	Class 3
Friday 27 th June 2025	Class 2
Friday 4 th July 2025	Class 8
Friday 11 th July 2025	Class 9

Non Uniform Donation Days

In preparation for our summer fair, we are planning to hold two non uniform days. On the first one we are asking for bottle donations for our bottle tombola and raffle. Bottles can contain anything from bubble bath to pop! On our second non uniform day we are asking for chocolate donations. The teachers will be closely supervised that day!

Pleasant Weather

Hopefully, this week's sunny skies and warm temperatures will continue into the summer term. Please can we politely ask that during the warm conditions your child brings a water bottle and hat to school and has sun cream applied. This enables us to keep our children safe.

Y6 SATS

Our children in Y6 are currently making final preparations ahead of their SATs tests which are coming up in May. Everyone has worked so VERY hard and we are very proud of them. We know they will try their absolute best and we wish them lots of luck.

Annual Arts Week and Show

We are pleased to inform you that once again we are planning to hold a whole school Arts Week in May and the work from this will culminate in show night in July. This year the children will be preparing for, and performing 'What a Knight!' and we are already excited for another fabulous evening of entertainment. Let the auditions and rehearsals commence!

Parenting Courses

Mrs Smith is now working with Mrs Morris from Laithes Primary School to offer some Parenting Courses. Please contact Mrs Smith if you would like further information about these.

Y1 Phonics Screening

Thank you to the Parents and Carers who attended our PSC information session on Monday. We hope you found it useful.

Dates for your diaries

Monday 5th May—Bank Holiday. School is closed.

Friday 23rd May—INSET Day. School closed to pupils.

Monday 26th- Friday 30th May— Half Term. School closed.

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

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.