

Welcome to November's edition of First Friday. We hope you all had an enjoyable half term. This month's newsletter gives an update on what's been happening in school and upcoming events, we hope you find it informative.

**Half Term 1 Events**

**Harvest Festival**

We would like to say a really big thank you to everyone who donated tinned and dried goods for our Harvest appeal. These have been delivered to one of the local foodbanks and will now be distributed to families in need. Your generosity is appreciated, thank you.

**Spooky Spectacular**

Once again a fun time was had by all at the Halloween disco. Spooky looking costumes, hot dogs, sweets and treats as well as some dodgy dancing all made for a memorable event! Thank you to everyone who attended.



**ASDA Cashpot for Schools—WOW!!**

A HUGE thank you to everyone who is supporting our Cashpot for Schools fundraising effort via the ASDA rewards app. We are SO excited that our total is already £612.33 with 22 days now left to go! Will we make it to £700? Fingers crossed.

Athersley South Primary School

You have helped raise

**£612.33**

🕒 27 days left



**BBC Children in Need Fundraising Appeal**

In keeping with our annual tradition, we are having a non-uniform day on Friday 15th November to support the 'BBC Children in Need' Appeal. For a donation of 50p your child can come to school in non uniform, be that their normal clothes, their pyjamas or something to reflect the Children in Need theme 'Be Spotacular' by wearing some spots. As your child will still be going outside at playtime and lunchtime, it is important that they have clothing that will keep them warm e.g. tights underneath their pyjamas or trousers to wear over the top. We look forward to this event.

**Advance Notice of Festive Events**

We are delighted to share with you details of festive events to look forward to:

Wednesday 11th December—Christmas Dinner served in the dining room

Monday 16th December @ 9.15am KS2 Carols for Y3&4 Parents and Carers to attend

Tuesday 17th December @ 9.15am KS2 Carols for Y5&6 Parents and Carers to attend

Wednesday 18th December—KS1 Nativity—9.15am for Y1 Parents and Carers &

2.15pm for Y2 Parents and Carers

Friday 20th December @ 9.15am F2 Sing-a-long for F2 Parents and Carers

**Bike Shed**

A polite reminder that due to the dark mornings and evenings, the bike shed is now closed until February half term. Thank you for your co-operation.

**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.