

Welcome to October's edition of First Friday. We hope you will find our newsletter helpful and informative.

Upcoming Events

Harvest Festival

We look forward to welcoming Joseph from Gateway Church into school next week to lead our Harvest Festival. We would be really grateful for any donations of tinned or dried goods which we can pass on to be distributed to those in need. We would kindly ask that these are brought in on Monday or Tuesday next week.

Spooky Spectacular

Our Halloween event, for children from F2 to Y6, will be held after school on Thursday 24th October. Tickets are now available to buy on ParentPay.

Water Bottles

We would like to politely remind you that children must only have water in their water bottles. Juice is permitted at lunchtime within a packed lunch. Fizzy drinks are not permitted. This is in line with guidance around dental and physical health.



ASDA

We are delighted to be participating in the Asda 'Cashpot for Schools' promotion and are excited to already have raised £355.72 with 59 days still to go. If you've not already signed up, please do and spread the word! School receives £1 for everyone who nominates our school and a percentage of your shopping bill each time you shop thereafter.

Athersley South Primary School

You have helped raise

£355.72

59 days left



Halloween Sale

Don't forget that we are holding a Halloween sale on Tuesday 8th Oct at 3.20pm. We have a variety of items in a range of sizes. The sale will be held in the art room, so please come in via main reception.

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who visited our school book fair. It was lovely to see so many children excited to choose and buy a book. Once we find out how much money we raised for school we will let you know. Money raised will be used to buy books for all our children to enjoy in the library.

Dojo/Studybugs App

We are pleased to inform you that very soon we will be launching both the Dojo App and the Studybugs App in school. We hope both these apps will further support our home school communication.

Y4 Swimming

Y4 swimming is now underway and these children have been the Swimmers of the Week so far!



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.