



## Athersley South Primary School

Wakefield Road, Barnsley, S71 3TP

Tel: 01226 284223

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

Headteacher: Mrs E. Sanderson  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Wheelwright



### Spring Lockdown Updates

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware we have been navigating our way through unprecedented times for almost a year. We have now become used to DFE guidance changing frequently, often with little or no notice before we are required to implement the content, and we do appreciate your ongoing patience and understanding in relation to this. As such I already find myself writing to you to provide two updates in relation to the current national lockdown and associated restrictions on school attendance.

#### School Attendance

The original guidance issued by the DFE on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January stated that vulnerable children and those of critical workers were eligible to attend school and should continue to do so. The guidance 'Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings' was then updated late on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January and it now states, '**Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can**'. We would ask that you bear this in mind and if your circumstances change or allow, we would ask that you do keep your children at home. This helps us to reduce contacts between different households and minimise risks as far as is possible.

#### Nursery Provision

When schools were ordered to reduce their attendance to all but vulnerable children and those of critical workers last week, it was indicated that school nurseries would fall in line with Reception to Y6 classes and only open to these children. We have now received clarification and been advised that it has been decided that all nursery children may attend a school nursery if Parents/Carers elect to do so. We will therefore be contacting all Parents of F1 children and Nursery will be open to all pupils with effect from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, operating the usual session times for those who wish to attend. Parents and Carers will need to make their own informed decision regarding this offer, considering the benefits and risks associated with attendance, and we understand some Parents/Carers will have concerns and reservations and will continue to support families during these difficult times.

#### Remote Learning Engagement

As communicated previously, it is the Government's expectation that all children engage in their remote learning. Please be advised that if your child is not responding to the work on Seesaw you will receive a communication from school so we can try and identify what difficulties your child is experiencing. If the issue is data or device related we will endeavour to help. Please also be aware that as part of our safeguarding requirements we have a responsibility to maintain contact with your child(ren) and so you will receive calls from school in the coming weeks. These may be from a 'withheld' or 'unknown' number.

Thank you for all that you are doing as Parents and Carers and for your ongoing support to ourselves.

Please take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Mrs E. Sanderson