



Athersley South Primary School

Wakefield Road, Barnsley, S71 3TP

Tel: 01226 284223

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

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



End of Half Term Letter to Parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

As stated on the First Friday newsletter last week, we have just come to the end of six eventful weeks. We are constantly faced with new challenges and have to navigate our way through them, often with little notice. As I have said previously I do thank you for your ongoing support, understanding and good wishes that have been very gratefully received by staff. I am also very grateful to all the staff at ASPS who continually rise to the challenge in order to support all of our children.

Although the recent announcement of a possible return to school date of 8 March gave us a glimpse of light at the end of the tunnel, it does mean that we must continue with restricted opening after half term, and as yet we have no further information about re-opening to more pupils. So, whilst there was some positivity to this news, I also completely understand the anxiety, frustration, upset and anger that this announcement may have caused, particularly to those of you facing a longer period of time managing learning at home, sometimes alongside completing your own work.

As we know, the purpose of the national lockdown and partial closure of schools is to attempt to suppress the transmission of the virus by reducing social contact, which is a good thing. This is why we have to minimise numbers attending school. As both a Parent and Headteacher, I completely empathise with how you may be feeling faced with the daily pressures of home life, work life, the lockdown and the addition of home learning in the past half term. It was really lovely to receive so much feedback from yourselves about our offer, including suggestions for improvement. Our offer is dictated by very specific and demanding government guidance – we have a legal obligation to adhere to this. However, we do not want to be in a position where we are placing additional stress upon the home life of parents and children. It is important to note that I do not expect that you should try and replicate the work of teachers in school. Government guidance states “No one expects parents to act as teachers, or to provide the activities and feedback that a school or nursery would. Parents and carers should do their best to help children and support their learning while dealing with other demands”. I could not agree more strongly with this statement.

I am fully aware of the collective and individual challenges that you, and we, face during this difficult time and I completely understand that you have to make decisions about home learning based entirely upon your own circumstances. I will say that staff are wholly impressed with the quality of learning that is being submitted by children through Seesaw and feel that this needed both noting and celebrating 😊. As I constantly say to the children – the most that I will ever ask is the best that you can do, taking into account and reflecting upon your own, very individual and personal, circumstances. Please don't forget as well that, whilst your child is at home, staff at school will try to support in any way they can – please do not hesitate to contact us.

As we move into February half term, everyone is in need of a rest and to recharge their batteries and I hope that, despite the current restrictions in place, you will be able to enjoy your time next week. There will be no work set on Seesaw and staff will not be checking the accounts. Activities on Seesaw will begin again on Monday 22nd February.

Hopefully we are now in the latter stages of this lockdown and I am looking forward to the first day when I can welcome all children back to the school site.

Please stay safe and take care and thank you again for all of your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Sanderson