



Athersley South Primary School

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www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

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



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of this half term I thought it would be useful to provide you with a number of updates and plans moving forward. After half term our First Friday newsletter, sent out on the First Friday of every month, will resume so you will receive regular communication.

Parental Communication

We are currently in the process of inputting the email addresses of all Parents, from the data collection forms distributed in September, onto our system. After half term we are aiming to go paperless and use email correspondence as our primary method of communicating with yourselves. If you know that you did not provide us with an email address, please do so as soon as possible to ensure you receive our school-home communications.

Virtual Assemblies

Unfortunately, current restrictions mean that we are unable to hold assemblies together in school. Each class does have an assembly with their teacher each week and they also have access to a virtual assembly with Mr Kay, who ordinarily visits our school regularly. In order for us to still meet as a whole school we have, in recent weeks, reintroduced our whole school assembly in virtual format and this takes place each Friday. Learner of the Week certificates are awarded and it is a great opportunity for the whole school to come together to 'see' each other (on screen!). These assemblies have been well received by the children and they will continue after half term. We do of course look forward to the future when we can once again ask Parents/Carers to join these events in school.

Maternity Leave

As many of you will know both Mrs Hale and Mrs Lees from EYFS are currently on maternity leave. We are delighted to share with you that Mrs Hale gave birth to a girl in September and Mrs Lees a boy earlier in October. We hope you will join us in sending them our very best wishes and congratulations.

Miss Jewkes, who currently teaches in Class 4, will also be taking maternity leave from Christmas. Consequently, after half term, in order to ensure a smooth transition and to allow Miss Jewkes additional non class based time, we will be welcoming Miss Davidson to our team as maternity cover. Both teachers will work closely together during the next half term and Miss Davidson will be in school on Thursday this week to meet the class for the first time.

F2 Eye Test

All children in F2 will have an eye test in school on Tuesday 3rd November. If after having their eye tests there are any concerns regarding your child's vision you will be contacted by the Ophthalmology team who will usually invite you to take your child for a further eye assessment.

Flu Vaccinations

The School Nursing Team will be in school on Wednesday 11th November to give all children in school, from F2 to Y6, their annual nasal flu vaccination. You will have received a text about this with a link to an

online consent form. Please note that your child WILL NOT receive a vaccination unless you complete the consent form so we would ask that you complete this as soon as is possible.

Parents Evening

Ordinarily in November, we would invite Parents/Carers into school for our first Parents Evening of the year. As you will appreciate, this cannot happen this year. Instead, you will receive a short, written summary detailing how your child has settled, things that are going well and their next steps. If, once you have received this report in November, you have any concerns or queries, you will be able to request a call back from your child's teacher. Further information will follow.

PE Kits

Please can we politely request that your child has their outdoor PE kit in school on their allocated PE days. It is essential that all children have the right clothing and are able to take part in the lesson. As we move to the colder months we will be looking to accommodate lessons indoors, but this may result in some timetable changes as we will need to ensure the lessons can take place with sufficient cleaning of resources and the Hall space between different 'bubbles'.

Breakfast Club

As you will be aware, we are currently operating a reduced Breakfast Club provision and this is only for those Parents/Carers who have working arrangements that leave them with no other alternative. Capacity is severely limited but if circumstances have altered and you wish to enquire about a place for the next half term, please contact school by Thursday 22nd October and we will identify if we can accommodate your requirements, although this cannot be guaranteed. Any requests after this date will not be considered for a place until after Christmas. We appreciate your understanding and hope that you can appreciate our reduced provision is for the ongoing safety of all children.

Y6 Applications for Secondary School

If your child is in Year 6 and you have not already done so, I would urge you to complete their application for Secondary School. Wherever possible these should be submitted by 31st October 2020. Applications received after this time will be treated as a late application and may reduce your chance of receiving a school of your choice.

Covid Updates

As you will be aware, Barnsley is currently subject to Tier 2 restrictions. As such it remains vitally important that we all adhere to the national and local guidelines. In school this means adhering to the risk assessment, following the procedures in place around school, including the one way system, to remain as safe as we can. I would also ask that you distance from others as far as is possible while on site. Your co-operation this half term has been very much appreciated.

Website

Please visit our new school website www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk for school information and to find letters that have previously been sent home. We also update the Covid page with any information from ourselves or Barnsley Council as is necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable half term, albeit different to the norm.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E. Sanderson