



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 8
April 2022

Dear Parents,

We hope you find this month's First Friday useful in providing information about school life.

World Book Day

We loved seeing everyone in their character costumes on World Book Day last month. It was great to see how creative many of you had been. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Whole School Assemblies

We are delighted to have resumed whole school assemblies on a face to face basis. After two years of virtual assemblies, or a blended approach, we have been slowly reintroducing children to the hall and we have now held assemblies with everyone, in person, present. It is wonderful to be back together 😊.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who has so far responded to our questionnaire. If you haven't yet, you can access it via this link <https://forms.office.com/r/5SW7p812xz> Please be aware it closes next Wednesday. Thank you.

INSET and the Queen's Jubilee

We have been made aware of some confusion regarding Inset/Jubilee dates in May. Therefore to clarify, please be advised that Thursday 26th May is one of our 5 INSET days this year. As you will be aware, an additional bank holiday, to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, has been awarded and the date for this falls within the May half term break. As the official day falls within a school holiday, all schools across England were directed to identify an additional day in the school calendar 2021-22 where school would be closed to enable school staff to benefit from an additional day off. Friday 27th May was identified by our Trust, ECM, to take as our extra bank holiday day. As it is at a school's discretion, other primary and secondary schools within Barnsley, may have chosen different dates. If your child has a sibling at another school, please check their dates.

Statutory Assessments

As you will be aware, this summer statutory assessments resume in Schools. Our children have been working tremendously hard in preparation and we are proud of their efforts to date. A reminder of key dates:

- 9th-12th May Y6 SATS week
- Y2 will complete their SATS during May
- The Y1 Phonics Screening check will be completed during the week beginning 6th June
- 6th – 24th June Y4 children will complete the multiplication check

Easter Holiday Clubs

There are a number of different clubs and activities being organised by a range of organisations and clubs for children during the Easter holiday. Please see the flyer on our school website for more info.

Access to School Facilities

We are seeing an increase in the number of requests to use our school toilets, particularly around hometime. We would politely ask that you avoid doing so wherever possible as we continue to limit visitors within school.

Clothing Sale

Thank you to everyone who bought clothing during the Parents Evening. We managed to raise £38 for school funds. Please remember that we have a wealth of clothing for sale and items are just 50p each. Please contact the school office and leave a message for Mrs Severn if you would like to purchase any items.

Attendance

At Athersley South we have high expectations of all children in relation to punctuality and attendance. The following is a reminder of the start and finish times for different parts of school. Please can we remind you that if your child is late they must enter school via the main school office, this includes any children in FS1 or FS2.

FS1 morning 8:45 – 11:45am

FS1 afternoon – 12:10-3.10pm

FS2 8:50am – 3:00pm

KS1 8:50am – 3:00pm and KS2 8:50am – 3:05pm.

If your child cannot attend school for any reason please contact school on (01226) 284223 before 9.30am.

Mrs Smart will contact families if an absence has not been reported. This is because we have a statutory duty to ensure all children are safe. Our EWO this year is Mr C. Buckle who works with school and families to offer support, advice and guidance where punctuality and attendance causes concern. In such cases, Mrs Smart may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with Mrs Smart and Mr Buckle.

Home visits may also take place as and when necessary. If your child will not be in school for any reason other than illness you will need to complete a 'Request for Leave of Absence' form, available from school.

Dates for your diary

Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April - Easter Holidays.

Monday 2nd May – Bank Holiday – School closed

Thursday 26th May – INSET Day – School closed to pupils

Friday 27th May – School closed to staff and pupils

Monday 30th May-Friday 3rd June May half term, school closed

Attendance

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 Buckle, 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 Miss Crossland our Parent Support Advisor, Mr Buckle 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 Smart 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.