



# Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

**First Friday**

Edition 3  
February 2021

## Dear Parents,

We are now reached the end of five of the most eventful weeks of my teaching career, which have included entering a third national lockdown, restricted school attendance and snow! I want to begin this month by saying thank you for your support, understanding and continued good wishes that have been very gratefully received by staff. As both a parent and Headteacher, I completely empathise with how you may be feeling facing the daily pressures of home life, work life, the lockdown and the addition of home learning. We are working to very specific and demanding government guidance in school, but are trying our best for your children.

### Well Being Wednesday and Feel Good Friday

In recognition of the need for our children to have a break from screens, we will be ensuring some screen free time in the coming weeks. Depending on their class, your child will be participating in a 'Well Being Wednesday' or 'Feel Good Friday' afternoon. The activities planned will support their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Mr Gorner is also planning some PE challenges, we can't wait for these!

### 'Live Lessons'

We are delighted that so many children are joining daily 'meets' with their teachers and our weekly virtual assembly. This really is a great opportunity for your child to receive some extra motivation, explanation and feedback. After half term we are looking to extend this offer further. Towards the end of next week we will send out further details, with a summary of what we will be offering with timings for each class. Where possible we would love your child/ren to join 😊. That said, we fully appreciate that everyone's home and circumstances are different, so we just ask you do what is best for you and your child. If technology, internet connection or data is an issue, please do get in touch, we may be able to help.

### Snow Closures

We have now had significant snow fall on two occasions within the last month. Thank you for your understanding on those days and for only sending your child/ren in to school if you had no other option. As you will appreciate the need to maintain 'bubbles' does unfortunately complicate matters more than normal, but we will always do what we can. We will always endeavour to keep school open, but must be mindful of everyone's safety, both at school and when travelling to/from school. A number of our staff do travel a significant distance to work but our staff who live more local will always do their best to provide provision to those who need it 😊.

### Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who has so far responded to the questionnaire we sent out about our remote learning offer. We very much appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts. Your responses will feed into our ongoing self-evaluation and once all responses have been collated I will provide a summary of the findings. If your child attends school you will not have been sent the link, so don't worry. If you have yet to complete the questionnaire, please do so by **6pm this evening** so we can close the form and complete our evaluation. Thanks.

## Baby News 😊

We are delighted to be able to share with you that Miss Jewkes has welcomed her baby boy into the world 😊 Congratulations!

### Return to School and Covid-19 Update

Current indications are that schools **may** begin to re-open to more children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, but this is very much dependent on infection levels and the spread of Covid-19. We know that the uncertainty surrounding a return to school adds additional worry and stress, to yourselves and us, but please know that while ever attendance is restricted we will continue to support you and your child/ren however we can. We truly look forward to having our whole school community back together, but know that the environment and circumstances must be as safe as they can be for this to happen.

### Parent Support Advisor

We are pleased to inform you that we have now appointed a new Parent Support Advisor. After receiving significant interest in the post, we have appointed Mrs Stephanie Crossland to the role and look forward to welcoming her to the ASPS team in the next few weeks. Mrs Crossland will work closely with Mrs Walch, and Mrs Fowler our EWO, with a responsibility for monitoring and supporting good school attendance as well as providing support and advice for parents and children. We are sure that you will join us in helping her settle into our school community quickly and look forward to working with her.

### Back Path

In recent weeks, on numerous occasions, we have had to close access to the school grounds via the back gate due to flooding on the path. We fully appreciate the inconvenience and frustration this causes and have notified the council. The flooding has been the worst that we have ever known and we await a response from the highways department.

### Breakfast Club

As you know, we are only operating Breakfast Club currently for those with NO other option. After half term this will continue to be the case for the next half term until Easter. Those children who already have a place will retain their place for the half term. If your child no longer requires their place please inform the school office ASAP. We are sorry but we are unable to offer further places at this time, but please get in touch if you are having difficulties.

### INSET Day Change

You should have received an email earlier this week that detailed a change to our upcoming Inset Day. The Inset planned for Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February has been postponed until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. School will therefore be open on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for those children currently attending.

### February Half Term

For those currently in school, please remember that we break up for half term on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 3.05pm, returning to school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. During the half term there will be NO activities uploaded to Seesaw.

### Thank You!

We would like to express our thanks to you all. We really do appreciate your support and your efforts with remote learning. #TeamASPS 😊