



# Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk

## First Friday

Edition 7  
March 2020

### Dear Parents,

Please take time to read our newsletter to keep up to date.

### Parents Evening

The Booking System is now open for our Spring term Parent's Evenings which will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. We very much hope you will be able to join us on one of these evenings to speak with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress.

### Clothing Sale!

Thank you to everyone who has continued to donate clothing to school for us to recycle. We will be holding our next clothing sale in the art room on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March to coincide with Parents Evening. You will be able to purchase a range of clothing, most selling at just 50p! If you require anything before then, please contact Mrs Severn via the main school office.

### Eat Them to Defeat Them!

We are currently one of only four schools in Barnsley participating in a national 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign, which encourages the children to try different vegetables. You may have seen the adverts on TV or information in different supermarkets. You can also watch the advert for the campaign- just type 'Eat Them to Defeat Them video' into your search engine.

### World Book Day 2020

It was fabulous yesterday to see our school full of different story characters and props and to hear the children exchanging book recommendations and discussing their favourite characters etc. Thank you, once again, for supporting our work in school, we had a brilliant day. Don't forget to spend your book tokens before the deadline!

### Ullswater Residential

Photographs of the recent residential can be found on our website, via the link on the home page. It was a very cold, but busy week with lots of adventures and memories made.

### KS1 Visit to Conisbrough Castle

The KS1 team are currently busy organising a visit to Conisbrough Castle later this month. It promises to be an exciting day out!

### ParentPay

As we move towards a cashless school, Parentpay will be the only means by which you can pay for school trips, school lunches and other events in school. If you have any difficulty in accessing your account, please contact the school office who will be happy to assist.

### Headlice 'drop in' clinic

Don't forget about our Headlice 'drop in clinic'. Kay Watson, one of the School Nursing Team, will next be in the 'House of Clubs' on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March between 3.00 and 4.00 pm to offer advice, to check a child's hair if Parents wish and to prescribe treatment if needed. She will then return on a rolling cycle on the following dates: 13.05.20, 10.06.20 and 08.07.20. Please make the most of this service, if we all work together we can try to eradicate headlice cases.

### Playgroup

Please accept our apologies that Playgroup has been temporarily closed on a Monday for the foreseeable future. This is due to some staffing difficulties but we will look to re-open as soon as we are able.

### Wrap Around Childcare

Thank you to everyone who returned their responses with regard to the wrap around childcare options we are currently considering. This information will be shared with the providers concerned and we will keep you updated if there are any developments.

### Assembly

As part of our recent assemblies we have welcomed Mr Kaye, a long standing visitor who always engages the children, Mr Reasbeck from Gateway Church who organised the pancake event there, and we have also had some human size vegetables in assembly too, supporting our mission to 'Eat Them to Defeat Them'!

### Entrance via the Back Gate

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding while work is undertaken on the public path behind school. We share your frustration and hope that the path will be completed within the next couple of weeks.

### Attendance

At Athersley South we have high expectations of all children in relation to punctuality and attendance. Attendance for each class up to the beginning of this month is shown below.

F1 (am) – 90.05% F1 (pm) – 82.52%

F2 – 90.08%

Class 1 – 94.51%

Class 2 – 94.31%

Class 3 – 92.69%

Class 4 – 92.64%

Class 5 – 95.64%

Class 6 – 95.56%

Class 7 – 96.43%

Class 8 – 96.43%

Congratulations to **Class 7 and Class 8** who are our current joint leaders with best attendance so far this year 😊.

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

Mrs Midgley 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 will continue to be Mrs Nicola Fowler. Her role is to work with school and families to offer support, advice and guidance where punctuality and attendance causes concern. In such cases, Mrs Midgley may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with Mrs Midgley and Mrs Fowler. Home visits may also take place as and when necessary.

### Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Evening

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Headlice 'drop in clinic' in the House of Clubs

# 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, Nicola Fowler, 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 Mrs Midgley our Parent Support Advisor, Nicola Fowler 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 Midgley 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.