



# Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

## First Friday

Edition 7  
March 2022

### Dear Parents,

We hope you had an enjoyable half term and that you find this month's First Friday useful in providing information about what is happening in school.

### Mayoral Visit

We were super excited to welcome Barnsley's Mayor to school today to visit our children in Years 5 and 6. The purpose of her visit was to thank them for their contributions to the recently opened covid memorial in Barnsley town centre. While our children whose work has been included were able to attend the unveiling, those who submitted entries were not, but this assembly allowed for all our fantastic children to be celebrated and thanked in person. The children had some really great questions prepared and enjoyed a question and answer session with her. We are really proud of all that our children achieve 😊.

### Residential

Before half term 33 of our Y5/6 children embarked on a residential visit to the Lake District. Despite the awful weather they had a fantastic time, swimming in the lake, climbing mountains and orienteering. Photos are available on the website to see them in action!

### Parents Evening

You should by now have received information about Parents Evening which will be held on Tuesday 22nd March and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We very much look forward to seeing you, face to face, to discuss your child's development and achievements.

### School's Got Talent

We are delighted to be able to share with you that School's Got Talent will be going ahead this year. Further details will follow but we are very excited to see how creative and talented our children are 😊.

### School Photos

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March is school photo day! Children will be able to have an individual and/or family photo (with siblings in school only). Say cheese 😊

### Holiday Clubs

We have been asked to make you aware of an Easter club for Girls that is being organised at Honeywell. Children who are eligible for free school meals can attend for a full day of sports activities with lunch too! If you think your daughter would enjoy these sessions and you are eligible, please contact Mrs Smart at school and she can pass on details. Please be aware this is being organised by Totally Runable and not our school. It promises to be a super show 😊.

### Glee Club

Glee Club will begin meeting again on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March in preparation for their Young Voices Concert. It promises to be a fabulous show!

### Relief SMSA Vacancies

We continue to recruit relief School Meals Supervisory Assistants to work on an 'as and when' basis at lunchtime. If you would be interested in applying, please contact the office for an application form. Please be aware that if your application meets the criteria you will have to attend an interview and a full DBS check will be undertaken.

### Covid-19

This week you will already have received notification that, despite some slight changes to national covid-19 guidance, children or staff who test positive for covid should still continue to isolate for 5 days and then take LFTs to check for a negative result. Thank you for your support.

### 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

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Parents Evening

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Easter Holidays.  
School will be closed to pupils.

# 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.