

Dear Parents,

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

Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee

Ahead of the Queen's Jubilee which will be celebrated nationally during the May Spring Bank Holiday, we will be holding a non uniform day on Wednesday 25th May. For a donation of 50p we are asking that on the day children dress in red, white or blue, or a combination of these colours. During the day the children will be engaged in Jubilee themed activities and we are hoping, weather permitting, to hold a 'garden party' outdoors in the afternoon with traditional refreshments. We are very much looking forward to this themed day and the exciting day we have planned.

School Visits

Staff are currently in the process of organising visitors to school, and trips out of school for the term ahead. Further information will follow in due course from the respective staffing teams.

Headlice

We are seeing an increase in the number of cases of headlice being reported. Please can we ask that you are vigilant and check you child's hair regularly, and treat if necessary, so we can avoid outbreaks.

Uniform Policy

We recently sent out a copy of the uniform policy that will be effective from September 2022. While there are no significant changes to existing expectations, the policy does give clarity around certain items of school clothing that are not acceptable.

Team Trip

The winning team last term was the Eagles and they enjoyed time with a children's entertainer just before the Easter holiday as their reward for accumulating the most success stones across the term. Well done Eagles



. Who will be victorious this term?

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

Y3/4 Mining Museum Visit

The Y3/4 team are currently busy finalising plans to take all children in Year 3 and Year 4 on a visit to the Yorkshire Coal Mining Museum. This will be a fabulous day out and we hope the children will have a brilliant experience.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our Parent/Carer Questionnaire. We appreciate you taking the time to feedback on the work that we do and for making suggestions about how we can improve further. Feedback will be sent out separate to this communication and we hope you find it useful.

Bike Shed

We are delighted that the bike shed has now been repaired and, as such, re-opened for use this week. Unfortunately there has been a delay in the area being painted, but we hope this work will be completed very soon. Please remember items are left at your own risk.

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

Wednesday 25th May – Non Uniform 'Jubilee Celebration' Day

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.