



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 2
October 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our second First Friday newsletter of the school year. Time is really flying by.

Staffing

Following our recent recruitment drive we have now successfully appointed a new member of staff to our EYFS team, with another staff member joining us very soon. As many of you are aware, Mrs Sung and Mrs Heppinstall both left in the summer to pursue new exciting opportunities. Their posts have, until now, been covered by supply staff. With effect from Monday 4th October we are delighted to welcome Miss Baranski to the EYFS team. She will be working in F1 in a morning and F2 in an afternoon. Once F1 is open all day, Miss Baranski will be based in F1 all day. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her to the ASPS team.

Hello Yellow Non Uniform Day

You should by now have received an email from Mrs Walch detailing a non uniform day next week as part of World Mental Health Day. For a donation of 50p we will be allowing children to come in non-uniform and would really love it if everyone could have a little yellow somewhere on their outfit that day. The more yellow the better 😊.

Beat the Street

As detailed in last month's newsletter we won 1st prize in one of the Beat the Street competitions in the summer and were placed third in the second competition. Natalie from Totally Runable joined our virtual assembly last week and presented us with a trophy and vouchers for more than £200 to spend on sports equipment. We are hoping this equipment can enhance break and lunchtimes 😊 If you visit our website there are some photos of our trophy and certificates to view. Well done and thank you to you all again!

Educational Visits

We are excited to be looking at opportunities for educational visits to take part in the next term to enhance the children's learning experiences. A Y6 visit to Crucial Crew has already been booked and more information will follow soon.

Site Access and Safety

Please can we ask that you do not enter the school site before 8.35am on a morning and until after 2.45pm on an afternoon. This is when the gates open for you to access the playground areas to either drop off or collect your child. This ensures us to make sure the site and all site users are safe and it also ensures that learning is not disrupted and/or children distracted by visitors on site. I would also seek to remind you that the trim trails should NOT be used before or after school. Again this is for safety reasons.

Who should I speak to?

Please don't forget if you have any concerns about your child you should, in the first instance, contact your child's class teacher who has the most thorough knowledge of your child. If concerns remain you should make an appointment to speak with a Leader of Learning (EYFS Miss Pell, KS1 Mrs

Twist, LKS2 Mr Gledhill and UKS2 Miss Stanley). If you feel that these members of staff have not been able to assist you sufficiently you should contact either Mr Wheelwright or Mrs Sanderson via the school office.

Covid-19

Covid-19 continues to be prominent in our local community and we continue to take appropriate precautions in school, in line with Government guidance. We have had a relatively few number of cases in school but would ask that you continue to be vigilant with regards to your child's health and where necessary take them for a PCR test as we are unable to accept results from a lateral Flow Device (LFD).

School Website

Please access our school website to look at the learning activities happening across school. You can also find information about the curriculum, extra-curricular activities (once they resume) and policies as well as being able to access letters that have been sent home.

Suitable Clothing, PE and Earrings

We would politely ask that your child wears appropriate clothing for school and, in particular, brings a coat to school in case of wet weather. We would also recommend putting your child's name in their clothing. We already have a number of unclaimed items of clothing that cannot be returned to children as they do not have names in.

In addition, a further reminder that children are not allowed to wear earrings for PE. These should be removed before your child comes to school on their PE days. Please be aware that staff are not allowed to cover earrings with plasters or assist your child in removing their earrings.

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 – currently closed
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 the main school office on (01226) 284223 before 9.30am.

Miss Crossland 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 be Mr C. Buckle. His role is to work with school and families to offer support, advice and guidance where punctuality and attendance causes concern. In such cases, Miss Crossland may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with Miss Crossland 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.

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 Miss Crossland 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.