

Dear Parents and Carers

We are fast approaching the end of another academic year and time seems to have flown by. This is the last newsletter of the year and we hope you find it useful.

Whole Class Music Tuition

In June our Y5/6 children performed with their instruments for the rest of school. They have been practising and refining their skills all year and it was lovely to hear how brilliant they are! Videos are available on the school website if you would like to hear for yourselves. The children also went on to perform at the Metrodome as part of the Barnsley Music Festival. We were commended by a number of members of the music service for their skills and enthusiasm.



Barnsley in Bloom Art Competition

Our Arts Club recently entered a Barnsley in Bloom poster competition. We are delighted to announce that a number of our entries were 'highly commended' and we received positive feedback for all our contributions. Well done to Miss Taylor and all members of our art club.

F2 End of Term events

On Monday 8th July F2 are welcoming a special visitor with a range of creatures for the children to see, handle and learn about. It promises to be an exciting morning and we are sure the children will have a lovely experience.

They will also be having their very own F2 sports day on Friday 12th July from 2.15-2.50pm. See you there!

KS1 and KS2 Sports Day

A reminder that KS1 and KS2 will have their sports day on Wednesday 17th July. Timings are below:

9.00am - 10.30am LKS2 - Classes 4, 5 and 6

10.45am - 12.15pm UKS2 - Classes 7, 8 and 9

1.10pm - 2.40pm KS1 - Classes 1, 2 and 3

A polite reminder that chairs will not be provided, but you are welcome to bring a camping style chair or picnic rug to sit on should you so wish.

KS1 and KS2 Shared Learning

Our children have produced some super work this year as part of their learning journeys and we think you'll be impressed! We hope that Parents and Carers are able to join us on Monday 15th July from 2.30-3.00pm to view this and to share a story with their child.

End of Year Reports

End of year school reports for all children will be sent out on Monday 15th July. If your child is in Y1, their report will also include their Phonics screening check outcome and similarly, Y4 children will receive the outcome of their national multiplication check taken in June.

Transition and 'Meet the Teacher'

On Tuesday 16th July children will spend the day in their new class, getting to know their teacher and their new surroundings. As Parents and Carers, you are then invited from 3.30-4.00pm to a 'Meet the Teacher' event where you can meet your child's new class teacher and visit their new classrooms and ask any questions you may have.

Y6 Bowling Trip, Water Fight and Leavers Assembly

Following completion of their SATS, Y6 children will be going bowling next week. We are sure they will have a fabulous time. In addition, in line with tradition, they will be having a water fight at the end of term. It is always an enjoyable afternoon with a good deal of laughter and A LOT of water!! As their time at ASPS draws to a close, Parents and Carers of Y6 children are invited to attend their Leavers assembly to be held on Friday 19th July at 9.00am.

Library Visit

Class 1 enjoyed a visit to Roundhouse library on Monday. Next school year we plan to arrange for each class to have a visit so children can see the wide range of books on offer.

Team trip

The winning team for this term will be enjoying an afternoon at bowling on Wednesday 10th July. We hope they have a lovely time.

Y3/4 Mayan Day

The Y3/4 children had a fantastic Mayan day earlier this week. Inspired by a special, very knowledgeable visitor they were able to develop their understanding of the Mayans. Activities included clay pot making, being an archaeologist, finding and examining a range of artefacts as well as some Mayan inspired maths. It was certainly a memorable day.

Photographs will be uploaded to the class blogs and we hope you enjoy looking at them.

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. **If your child is moving to a new phase in school, please note the change in times.** 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 8:40 - 11:40am FS1 afternoon - 12.25-3.25

FS2 8:45am - 3:15pm

KS1 8:45am - 3:15pm and KS2 8:50am - 3:20pm.

End of School year

A reminder that school closes for summer at the end of the day on Friday 19th July.

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. Scarth, 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. Smith our Parent Support Advisor, Mr. Scarth 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. Smith 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.