



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 9
May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to May's edition of First Friday which contains information about upcoming events.

School Closure Reminder

School is closed next Monday, 6th May as it is a Bank Holiday. We look forward to seeing all our children return on Tuesday 7th May.

Class Assemblies

It has been wonderful to see children showing off their learning in their class assemblies over the last three weeks. A huge well done to Classes 1, 6 and 7 who were all amazing. We look forward to welcoming more Parents and Carers in as the term progresses. Below is a reminder of when your child's class assembly is being held.

Friday 10 th May 2024	Class 5
Thursday 23 rd May 2024	Class 4
Friday 7 th June 2024	Class 3
Friday 14 th June 2024	Class 2
Friday 21 st June 2024	Class 8
Friday 28 th June 2024	Class 9

Showtime!

Preparations have now begun for this year's school show Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits. A number of children have now committed to rehearsing each Thursday night with singing, drama and dance all taking place. We are really excited for the show, which will take place in July. Further information about the dates and tickets for the show will be sent nearer to the time.

Y6 SATS

All our Y6 children will be participating in SATS tests during the week beginning 13th May. We know that they have been working incredibly hard to prepare for these and that they will do their absolute best. We wish them lots of luck.

Y1 Phonics Screening Check

Thank you to Parents and Carers of Year 1 children who were able to join Mrs Wheelwright earlier this week for a short meeting about the forthcoming phonics screening check for Y1 children. We hope you found the session informative. All Y1 children have been sent home some extra practice materials should you wish to use them. There is also a barcode link to online activities to support your child's learning.

School Library

A reminder that our school library will be open next Thursday 9th May after school. Children can come along with an adult and spend time reading and sharing a book. We hope you are able to join us. The library will also open on the first Thursday in June and July.

Who should I speak to?

We very much hope that you will not have any worries or concerns. However, please can we take this opportunity to remind you that if you have any concerns about your child at all you should, in the first instance, contact your child's class teacher who has the most thorough knowledge of your child. If your concerns remain you should make an appointment to speak with a Leader of Learning (EYFS – Miss Pell, KS1 – Mrs. Wheelwright, LKS2 – Mrs. Belfield 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.

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 8:40 – 11:40am FS1 afternoon – 12.25-3.25
FS2 8:45am – 3:15pm
KS1 8:45am – 3:15pm and KS2 8:50am – 3:20pm.
If your child cannot attend school, please contact the office on (01226) 284223 before 9.30am. Mrs. Smith will contact families if an absence has not been reported. This is because we have a statutory duty to ensure all children are safe. Mr. Scarth continues to be our EWO this year and his role is to work with school and families to offer support, advice and guidance where punctuality and attendance causes concern. In such cases, Mrs. Smith may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with Mrs Smith and Mr Scarth. 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 at the school office.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 24th May – INSET day, school closed to pupils
Monday 27th -Friday 31st May Spring Bank Holiday, 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. 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.