



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 4
December 2018

Dear Parents,

Christmas is fast approaching and we look forward to welcoming you into school in the coming weeks to celebrate the festive season with us. May we also take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BBC Children in Need Appeal 2018

Thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts for Pudsey. As a result of our Pyjama Day we were able to raise £166 for the Children in Need Appeal. Well done!

Festive Fundraising

It has been wonderful today to see so many children (and adults) dressed for the festive season for our non-uniform day. We are delighted to be supporting the Bluebell Wood Hospice appeal again this year and raising funds for this very worthy cause. Once the money we have collected has been counted we will put the total on the website. Thank you 😊.

Community Carol Singing at St. Helen's

It was lovely to see and hear a group of our children singing at St.Helen's church this week as the Christmas lights were switched on. Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who brought their children and supported this event.

Christmas Raffle

If you would like to donate any prizes for our grand Christmas raffle we would be grateful for any red, green or gold themed items. We also have a photography shoot voucher as our 1st prize. Donations can be taken to the main school office. Raffle tickets will go on sale on Monday 17th December and will be available from the school office, priced £1 a strip. You can also buy raffle tickets at the F2 Sing-a-long and KS1/KS2 concerts. The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 19th December after the KS2 carol concert.

Christmas Concerts

F2 will be holding a Christmas sing-a-long for their Parents on Monday 17th December at 9.15am in the school hall. KS1 will be presenting their nativity, 'A Little Bird Told Me' at 9.15am on Wednesday 19th December and this will be followed at 10.15am with the KS2 Carols Concert. Tickets for all three events will be available from the school office from Monday 10th December. Please note that due to health and safety regulations, these will be limited to three per family initially. Young children will need their own ticket even if they are sitting on an adult's knee. There is no charge for the tickets.

Christmas Singing for the Community

Mrs Sanderson and Mrs Brayshaw are looking forward to taking ten children to St.Helen's church on Wednesday 19th December to sing for members of a local dementia group. The children will also enjoy lunch with the group. We visited earlier this year and it was a very enjoyable experience.

Parents Evening

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent Parents Evening event. If you were unable to see your child's teacher for any reason and would like an appointment, please contact school in order to arrange a meeting.

Polite Reminders

Please can we politely remind you all that access to the school car park is limited to staff and those who have a blue badge ONLY at the start and end of the school day. This is to ensure the safety of all site users. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of punctuality both at the beginning and end of the day and ask that wherever possible you ensure your child is on time. Thank you.

Ofsted

You should by now have received your own copy of our recent Ofsted report where we were graded as a 'good' school in all areas. If not, you can find it on our website under the 'School Information' tab.

Attendance

At Athersley South we have high expectations of all children in relation to punctuality and attendance. Attendance for each class for the year so far is shown below.

F1 (am) – 91.23% F1 (pm) – 75.13%

F2 – 92.57%

Class 1 – 92.72%

Class 2 – 95.42%

Class 3 – 94.66%

Class 4 – 93.86%

Class 5 – 95.67%

Class 6 – 96.27%

Class 7 – 94.61%

Class 8 – 96.41%

Congratulations to **Class 8** who have the best attendance! If your child cannot attend school for any reason, please contact the main school office on (01226 284223) before 9.30am. If your child cannot attend school for any reason please contact the main school office on (01226) 284223 before 9.30am.

Mrs Midgley 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 continue to be Mrs Nicola Fowler. Her role is to work with school and families to offer support, advice and guidance where punctuality and attendance causes concern. In such cases, Mrs Midgley may contact you by phone or you may be invited to attend an internal school panel with Mrs Midgley and Mrs Fowler. 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. If your child has a medical appointment you should inform either your child's class teacher or the school office so the appropriate mark can be recorded in the register. In such cases you will not be asked to complete a form.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 17th December – FS2 Christmas sing-a-long

Wednesday 19th December – KS1 Christmas Concert/KS2 Carols

Friday 21st December – Last day of the Autumn Term

Monday 7th January 2019 – Return to 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. Recent changes in Government guidance has seen the threshold for persistent absenteeism change from below 85% to 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, Nicola Fowler, 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.** Following recent changes to guidance and legislation, 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 Midgley our Parent Support Advisor, Nicola Fowler 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 Midgley 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.