



Athersley South Primary School

www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk

First Friday

Edition 5
January 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We very much hope that you have had a lovely Christmas and a restful break. We are very grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to welcoming you into school during 2019 ☺.

Attendance Achievements

Congratulations to the 58 children who managed to dodge illness in the Autumn term and achieved 100% attendance ☺ Their photos are on the website. Well done too to a further 91 children who missed out on 100% but managed to achieve attendance above 96.5% which is our school target.

Polite Reminder

Please can we politely remind you all that access to the school car park at the start and finish of the school day is limited to staff and those who have a blue badge ONLY and only when the badge holder is dropping off or collecting a child. The school driveway is a potentially hazardous part of the site and it is therefore imperative that restrictions are put in place to ensure the safety of all site users, but primarily children. I would therefore ask for, and appreciate, your co-operation in this matter.

Winning Team

Congratulations to all those in the Hawks team who achieved the most success stones in the Autumn term and enjoyed a movie afternoon as their reward.

Festive Fundraising

A huge thank you to everyone for their support with our Festive Fundraisers. Our Festive non-uniform day at the beginning of December raised £120 for Bluebell Wood and our Christmas Raffle raised £271.00. As we continue to develop and extend our school library, this money will be used towards additional titles. Many thanks to all who donated prizes and those who bought tickets.

Community festive singing at St. Helen's

It was an absolute pleasure to take 10 children to sing for a community group at St. Helen's church just before Christmas. The children were a credit to themselves and the school, singing beautifully and demonstrating excellent manners and behaviour. They were delighted to share a buffet lunch with the group and we very much hope to make this a termly event on our school calendar. Photographs can be found on the 'Our School' section of the school website.

Pantomime Visit

All the children in KS1 and KS2 (and the staff) who attended the pantomime 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' at the Lamproom Theatre ahead of Christmas thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The behaviour of all the children was brilliant and everyone joined in in true pantomime spirit!

Christmas Concerts

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you into school for our Christmas concerts, we hope you enjoyed the performances. All the children, and staff, worked extremely hard to prepare and their efforts were rewarded with

amazing performances. We now look forward to our annual summer spectacular!

Team Active Gymnastics

We are looking forward to welcoming specialist teachers from Team Active during the Spring term. They will be working with all classes from F2 to Y6 to develop gymnastic skills and abilities.

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) – 91.09% F1 (pm) – 73.40%

F2 – 92.69%

Class 1 – 92.91%

Class 2 – 95.31%

Class 3 – 94.82%

Class 4 – 93.96%

Class 5 – 94.95%

Class 6 – 96.47%

Class 7 – 94.72%

Class 8 – 96.66%

Congratulations to **Class 8** who have the best attendance although Class 6 are not very far behind! 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 11th – Friday 15th March – Y5&6 children on residential

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February – Half term holiday

Monday 25th February – Inset Day – School closed to pupils but open for staff training

Tuesday 26th February 8.50am – school re-opens after half-term
Friday 12th April – Inset Day – School Closed to pupils but open for staff training

Monday 15th April – Friday 26th April – Easter Holiday, school closed to pupils

Monday 29th April 8.50am – School re-opens after Easter

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.