



ATHELSTAN NEWSLETTER



Letter Number 1 – Friday 5th September 2025

A welcome back message from Ms Barry & Mrs Watson

We are so excited to welcome everyone back to school after a lovely warm summer break. It was a delight to see the children all so eager to come into school on Wednesday and meet their new teachers. Our new Reception children have enjoyed half days this week and will be full time from Monday. A huge Athelstan welcome goes out to the new families and if any of our new parents would be interested in joining our PTA, then please do let us know by calling into the office or emailing pta@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

We are joined this year by two new teaching assistants - Lindsey Black has joined our FS team, and will be working Wednesday in Blue Class, Thursday in Green Class and Friday in Red Class to cover the days on which Mrs Wallace, Mrs Dalton and Mrs Rehman don't work. Kay Hayward has also joined us and will be working across both FS and Y1. Next week, we will be welcoming a new Clerical Officer, Megan Shepherd to the office team. This means that we will, however, be losing Kirsty Thornton, who has been with us on supply since May and who has done a fabulous job.

Both Miss Cheevers and Mr Fernley have now reduced their working week to four days. Mrs Barraclough will be covering Y5DF every Tuesday and Y2AC every Friday in their absence.

Over the holidays, the Premises Team have been extremely active and we would like to thank them for all of their hard work. You may have noticed that we currently have roofers replacing the junior dining room roof and we are due to have our heating repaired imminently - I'm sure you will remember that this caused us some problems last year!

It's going to be a busy half term so please do read the weekly newsletter every Friday. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead and are so appreciative of all of your support.

Fiona and Lisa

Attendance & Reporting Absences

If your child is unable to attend school, please follow the absence procedure below:

1. On the first day of your child's absence, you should contact the school office on 01142692301, before 9.30am, by leaving a message on the absence line (option 2) or speaking to a member of the Admin Team (option 3).
2. Failure to contact school about your child's absence will result in your child receiving an unauthorised absence mark. These are closely monitored by Sheffield City Council, and an Attendance and Inclusion Officer may contact you for further details.
3. You may also be visited at home, by a member of the school/local authority staff, if you fail to report your child's absence.

From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.

OTHER NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dates for your Diary

You will find with this newsletter the School Calendar and Dates for your Diary for this school year. Please pay particular attention to the dates for statutory testing.

It is absolutely critical that children are in school during these key times. No requests for exceptional term time leave should be made for these times. Children being absent from school, particularly during these periods of time, can raise significant difficulties and may impact your child's progress.

Y1 Phonics Screening Week	Week Commencing Monday 8 th June 2026
Y4 Multiplication Tables Check	Week Commencing Tuesday 2 nd June 2026
Y6 SATs Week	Week Commencing Monday 11 th May 2026

Raising a Query

If a parent/carer wishes to raise a query, they are encouraged to contact their child's class teacher in the first instance. This may be done verbally, by letter or by emailing either to the member of staff directly, or the school office.

You can find your child's class teacher's email address by following this link:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/athelstan-primary-school/UploadedDocument/2259caa1-78de-4411-9177-0b753c179acd/staff-email-addresses.pdf>

We aim to acknowledge any letter or email within one working day, and to action it within three working days wherever possible. Please note that emails will not be responded to before 8am or after 6pm in the evening (Monday - Friday) or at any time during the weekend.

If a parent/carer is not satisfied with the class teacher's response, then they may ask to speak to the Year Group Leader. Again, this contact may be made verbally, by letter or by email, within the same timeframe as above.

Breakfast Club

Booking slots are now available to book for all year groups via your child's ParentPay account for the whole school year. **Breakfast Club is strictly by pre-booking via ParentPay**, which requires payment upfront. Parents/Carers of children who are in receipt of **income based free school** meals must pre-book using ParentPay, but will not be charged.

Please note, sessions cannot be booked after 8am on the day before the day you wish to book. For example, if you wish to book your child a place for Monday 8th September, you would need to book the place no later than 8am on Sunday 7th September 2025.

ParentPay One-Click Payments

When making payments on ParentPay, we would recommend that Parents/Carers **do not** use the 'One Click Payment' option and instead add the payment item to the basket and checkout using a debit card as you would with any online shopping. This is because the 'One Click Payment' can take up to seven days for ParentPay to attempt to take the payment from bank accounts, which we have found do sometimes fail. Should you have any queries, please speak to a member of the Office Team.

Dinner Money Price Increase

The price of school meals has now increased to £2.95 per meal. If your child is in year groups Y3-Y6 and they do not qualify for income based free school meals, please ensure your child's ParentPay account is in credit to enable them to continue to order school meals.

Payment for School Meals – Y3 Children

Children in Y3 have reached the end of their universal free school meal entitlement. **If you wish for your child to continue to have school meals, payment for these will need to be made through ParentPay.** If you need any help using your ParentPay account, please speak to a member of the office team.

If you feel your child may be entitled to **income based free school meals**, please contact the office, as they can check this on your behalf. Children who receive income based free school meals are also entitled to free milk, entry to Breakfast Club free of charge, along with additional support with reading. The extra funding the school receives makes a huge difference. If you are unsure if your child is entitled to this, please get in touch.

Y1-Y6 PE Lessons

Please find details of PE and swimming days below.

Children need to come to school dressed in their PE kit on the days they have a PE lesson.

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Coral				PE	PE
Ochre	PE	PE			
Violet		PE		PE	
Y2AC				PE	PE
Y2MS			PE		PE
Y2RJ		PE	PE		
Y3A			PE		PE
Y3B		PE		PE	
Y3G	PE			PE	
Y4B	Swimming			PE	
Y4J					PE
Y4W		PE			
Y5BT	PE		PE		
Y5DF		PE		PE	
Y5HB		PE		PE	
Y6JT		PE			PE
Y6LB		PE	PE		
Y6NB		PE		PE	

Mindfulness at Athelstan

breath barometer - 3 minute pause (youtube.com)

finger breath - 3 minute pause (youtube.com)

hugging breath - 3-minute pause (youtube.com)



Makaton

Makaton is used by many people as a support to communication. Our hope is to enable all students to be able to confidently communicate with their peers and all staff in school. Please follow the link below to our website if you would like to join us on this learning journey:

<https://athelstan-primary-school.primarysite.media/playlist/makaton>

Food Works – Handsworth

Please follow the links below for further information about Food Works:

[Market – Food Works](#)

[Handsworth – Food Works](#)



Wednesday 17.09.25	Parent/Carers' drop-in to discuss how well their child has settled into their new class (3:30 – 4:00pm)
Wednesday 15.10.25	Individual Photographs
Monday 20.10.25	Whole School Flu Immunisations
Thursday 23.10.25	Non-uniform day for Sheffield Children's Hospital Snowflake
	Break up for the half term holiday on this day so children will attend on this day
Friday 24.10.25	INSET Day (school closed for children)
Monday 27.10.25	Half term holiday begins
Monday 03.11.25	Children return to school

Have a lovely weekend!

