



ATHELSTAN NEWSLETTER



Letter Number 15 – Friday 19th December 2025

A Message from Mrs Watson

I would like to thank all of you for your support over what has been an extremely busy term. So many of you have been in touch to send your best wishes to Ms Barry and we all hope to see her back at school in the new year.

It was lovely to see such a great turnout at both parents' evenings in November, which also showcased some incredible artwork from Y5 and Y6. Once again this year, the Y1 pupils and staff have blown us all away with their two nativity performances and our Reception children performed beautifully in their Christmas sing-a-long last week. The other year groups have put on some fabulous showcases, which have also been so well supported by all of you.

We do need to say a sad farewell to Mr Bastock this year, who is leaving us for an amazing opportunity with his martial arts school. We wish him all the very best for the future. Although we are sorry to see him leave us, we are thrilled to be welcoming Daniel Naylor to the Y4 team. Mr Naylor has been in school earlier this month to meet the children and staff in order to ensure a smooth handover. We are also losing Sharon Needham, one of our cleaners, who is moving on to pastures new after working here for 13 years.

We would also like to announce the fabulous news that Ms Bisknell is expecting her first baby. She hopes to be with us until Easter but we will keep you posted with any updates on this, including who will be teaching her class for the rest of this year.

One final thank you goes to our PTA, who organised both the Halloween Disco last term and more recently, three very busy Secret Santa sales. We are always looking for more volunteers so please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

All of our staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Snow and School Closures

As we are now in the season of possible bad weather, we would like to remind you of the procedures we follow in the event of a school closure and snow. The Acting Headteacher and the Chair of Governors, make the decision if school is going to close. This decision is never made lightly, and school will always remain open, if it is safe to do so.

If school is to close, you will be sent a text and app message as early as possible, usually before 7.00am. Please ensure the office is informed of any telephone number changes and that you have the latest version of "the SchoolApp" downloaded. A message will also be put on our school website, www.athelstanprimaryschool.co.uk and on the council website.

We will ALWAYS send a message if school is closing. If you do not hear from us, school will be open as normal.

The safety of our children is very important; therefore, if it isn't safe for you to travel, and your child will not be attending school, please contact school in the normal way. If school remains open, but the snow and ice make some paths dangerous to use, we may have to close some access routes around school. It is impossible for our Premises Team to clear every pathway before school opens, so please bear with us if you are unable to use your usual route into school.

Taylor Shaw Update

When we return to school on Monday 5th January, we will be on week two of the menu. The meal options will be:

Red – Pork sausage & mash with gravy

Green – Veggie sausage & mash with gravy

White – Halal chicken sausage & mash with gravy

Blue – Cheese sandwich

Brown - Jacket Potato with choice of filling

PE Lessons

Please find details of PE and swimming days below.

Children in all year groups need to come to school dressed in their PE kit on the days they have a PE lesson. **Please note: Children in Foundation now have set PE days.**

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Blue					PE
Green			PE		
Red					PE
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	

YEAR GROUP NEWS

Foundation News

Christmas Holiday Tasks

Over the Christmas holidays we would be grateful if parents/carers could encourage children to practice doing up their own zips and putting gloves on independently.

PE

Foundation will be starting PE in the second week of January (week beginning 12th January).

Each class will do PE on the following days:

Green Class – Wednesdays

Red Class – Fridays

Blue Class – Fridays

Children should come to school on their PE day wearing their PE kit: Dark coloured jogging bottoms or leggings, plain white t-shirt and either a dark tracksuit top or their school jumper/cardigan. As the lessons will be indoors, we will be doing PE in bare feet and therefore no pumps are required.

Y1 News

Book of the Fortnight

Our book of the fortnight is **The Christmas Eve Tree**. Our vocabulary words are: **foresters, scraggly, folks, accordion, carelessly** and **thankful**.

Y2 News

No additional news this week.

Y3 News

No additional news this week.

Y4 News

No additional news this week.

Y5 News

The Joy of Moving Sessions

After the holidays, Y5 will be starting 'The Joy of Moving' sessions with a coach from Sheffield United. These sessions will take place every Tuesday, starting on Tuesday 6th of January. Each week children will do a session in the classroom about health and wellbeing and then a physical session in the afternoon. Please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school on Tuesdays.

Manor Adventure Residential Meeting

We will be holding a short meeting for parents/carers of children in Y5, about the Manor Adventure Residential that children will be invited to attend in November 2026 when they are in Y6. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions. The meeting is being held on Tuesday 13th January at 3.30pm and will last approximately 30 minutes. We look forward to seeing you. Please enter school via the reception area.

Y6 News

Y6 SATs Meeting

Parents/carers of all Y6 children are invited to attend a meeting, on Tuesday 20th January at 3:30pm. The meeting will include detailed information on the upcoming SATs tests, give access to revision material, and provide hints and tips. Please enter school via the reception area.

Attendance

We have noticed an increase in the number of children arriving to school late each morning. We know that sometimes this can be unavoidable; however, arriving late does impact your child's and other children's learning. Please be reminded that the doors open at 8:35am and close at 8:50am.

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

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](#)



Friday 19.12.25	Break up for the Christmas holidays on this day so children will attend on this day
Monday 22.12.25	Christmas holidays begin
Monday 05.01.26	Children return to school
Tuesday 13.01.26	Y5 Manor Adventure Residential Meeting – 3:30pm
Tuesday 20.01.26	Y6 SATs Meeting - 3:30pm

We hope that you have a safe and happy holiday and look forward to welcoming children back to school on Monday 5th January 2026!

