



ATHELSTAN NEWSLETTER



Letter Number 18 – Friday 23rd January 2026



Stars of the Week



A huge well done to this week’s Gold Award Winners:

CORAL	Oscar G
OCHRE	Amira T
VIOLET	Riva B
Y2AC	Nellie H
Y2MS	Oscar F
Y2RJ	Louella T
Y3A	Zohaib R
Y3B	Jackson A
Y3G	Harlow-Grace J
Y4B	Logan L
Y4J	Bonnie B
Y4W	Jed J
Y5BT	Dur-e-Najaf A
Y5DF	Jenson H
Y5HB	Georgia B
Y6JT	Abigail D
Y6LB	CeeCee D
Y6NB	Cora C



Pen Licence Awards



This initiative is all about celebrating the effort and pride our pupils take in their handwriting. By earning a Pen Licence, children will showcase not only their neat and legible writing but also their dedication to improving and taking pride in their work. It's a chance to highlight those who consistently show effort and perseverance, motivating all our pupils to aim high and write with confidence. Well Done!

Freya H – Y4W

Lyla A – Y4J

Zayan R – Y4J

OTHER NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Staffing News

We are very sorry to have to tell you that Rebecca Harrison, our Family Support Worker, will be leaving us at the end of this month to return to Social Care. Rebecca has been a fabulous addition to Team Athelstan and we will be extremely sad to see her go. We are currently recruiting for Rebecca's replacement and will let you know who the successful candidate is as soon as we can. In the meantime, any safeguarding enquiries should be directed to either Lisa Watson, Anna Waring or James Mills. For any other enquiries dealt with by Rebecca, please contact Selina Ashton. All email addresses are below:

lwatson@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

awaring@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

jmills@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

sashton@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

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. We will also liaise with other local schools when making our decision. If school is to close, you will be sent a text and app message as early as possible, approximately 6:30am.

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

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.

Athelstan Readathon for Read for Good - 26th – 30th January

We will be running our second school Readathon to raise money for Read for Good, a charity who bring books and storytellers to children in hospitals all over the UK.

We are asking our children and families to do two important things during this Readathon week:

1) Read! As well as extra time devoted to reading in school, we need your help to squeeze in some more reading at home.

2) Sponsor! We have asked the children to seek sponsorship from family and friends. Every little helps and the money can be sent in as cash or paid online via card

at https://readathon.my.salesforce-sites.com/sponsor/R4G_SponsorPupilFindSchool1

Please support your child's sponsored read as much as you can. They'll be helping kids in hospitals get books, as well as helping themselves, and our school receives free books worth 20% of our grand sponsorship total, so there really is something in it for everyone. Last year, we raised a whopping £936.10! For more information, see the attached Read for Good letters, check out your child's sponsorship card or visit www.readforgood.org

Thank you for your support – helping your child to keep reading, raising and being amazing!

A Message from Taylor Shaw

Due to issues with the kitchen delivery, there will be a change to the menu on Tuesday 27th January. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. The options will be as follows:

Red - Chicken Goujons and half a Jacket Potato

White - Halal Meatballs with Pasta

Green – Veggie Nuggets and half a Jacket Potato

Brown - Jacket Potato

Blue - Tuna Mayo Sandwich

Medical Diets

Red – Fish Fingers and Chips

Green – Vegetable Fingers and Chips

Brown - Jacket Potato

Blue - Tuna Mayo Sandwich

SEND Support

Sheffield Grand Mosque and Sheffield Parent Carer Forum are hosting a SEND support event at the Grand Mosque on Grimesthorpe Road, Sheffield, on **30 January 2026**, from **11:00am – 2:00pm**. Families will have the opportunity to meet with up to 20 local services, including a stall from: Sheffield Parent/Carer Forum, Ryegate Team OT, Sensory Team, Eating Disorders Team, Community Continence Team, Family Action, SSENDIAS, and more. The event aims to support families who may be struggling to meet their children's SEND needs by offering advice, signposting, and practical support in one accessible place. All are welcome and there is no need to book. Additional information can be found on the flyer attached to this newsletter.

Are You Worried About Your Child's Mental Health?

I am a trained Child Mental Health First Aider and a trained Senior Mental Health Lead here at Athelstan. I am offering parents the chance to book an appointment to discuss any concerns about your children's mental health and provide some options and signposts that might help. We can also discuss what we can do in school to support your child. Appointments will be 20 minutes and will be available on the following date: Wednesday 4th February from 8:40am - 10:30am.

If you would like an appointment then please contact myself, Selina Ashton

on sashton@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Chinese New Year Art Competition

This week we are launching a Chinese New Year art competition to celebrate the Year of the Horse! The competition encourages pupils to express their creativity through artwork inspired by the Year of the Horse, symbolising energy, independence and forward momentum, while engaging with Chinese culture in an accessible and inspiring way. **Please submit all entries to your class teacher by Friday 20th February;** this gives you time over the holidays to create art at home. A selection of entries will be sent to Sheffield University. The First prize will be a £10 Amazon e-Gift voucher, and there will be two runners up who will receive a £5 e-Gift Voucher. The overall winner of the competition will receive a £20 Amazon e-Gift voucher; this is judged by the Confucius Institute at the university, not by school. Winners will be showcased and celebrated at the Exhibition Launch Party. The Exhibition Launch party and ceremony will be on the 12th March at the Diamond at Sheffield University. The exhibition will then be open to the public from the 13th-20th of March at the Diamond. The competition is open to KS1 and KS2. You will need to have your full name and your class on the artwork otherwise your entry will not count. Digital artwork, 3D models and sculptures are NOT accepted. Please ensure all work is on A4 paper or card.

Good luck; we cannot wait to see what you can create!

YEAR GROUP NEWS

Foundation News

No additional news this week.

Y1 News

Book of the Fortnight

Our book of the fortnight is **Jack and the Beanstalk**. Our vocabulary words are: **strange, wrinkly, demanded, commanded, flung** and **topped**.

Food Tasting

Year 1 children will be making and eating fruit kebabs during the week beginning Monday 2nd February. The fruits are banana, apple, raspberries, melon, pineapple, blueberries, kiwi, grapes, mango and strawberries. If your child has any allergies or you do not wish for them to take part, please email your child's class teacher before Friday 30th January:

Coral – Miss Cattell: scattell@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Ochre – Miss Stewart: csterwart@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Violet – Miss Clough: dclough@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y2 News

Home Reading Books

We are starting to run low on our home reading books. We have noticed some children have more than one book in their bag at a time. Please remind children to change their book each week and to only take one book at a time to ensure we have the stock for all children. Please hand any extra books to your child's class teacher next week.

Y2AC Marble treat

On Thursday 29th January, Y2AC will be having a movie afternoon for their class treat. Should they wish to do so, children can bring pyjamas to change into for the afternoon, a blanket and a teddy in a named bag. Miss Cheevers will also be providing popcorn. If your child has any allergies or you do not wish for them to be offered popcorn, please email Miss Cheevers on acheevers@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y3 News

Y3G Class Treat

Y3G will be having their class treat on Monday 26th January, in the afternoon. Children will be watching a film and colouring.

Y4 News

Local Area Walks

We will be walking around the Handsworth area to discuss various landmarks and what they have contributed to the history of the local area. The walk will be for a couple of hours so the children will need to be wearing appropriate shoes and bring a coat. If you would like to volunteer to join your child's class on the walk, please email their class teacher.

Each class will be going on the following days:

Y4W - Tuesday 3rd February 9.30am - 11.30am - gwindle@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y4B - Wednesday 4th February 1.15pm - 3.15pm - dnaylor@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y4J - Thursday 5th February 9.30am - 11.30am - djohnson@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y5 News

No additional news this week.

Y6 News

Y6 Outdoor Learning

Y6 Outdoor Learning takes place in school on the dates shown below. Children will be building dens using natural materials found in the school grounds, such as sticks and leaves etc. However, if possible, we would like children to bring in their own materials to assist in building their dens. Donations should be given to your child's class teacher. Please ensure that children come to school wearing suitable outdoor clothing, but bring a change of footwear to wear indoors. Thank you for your support.

Whole School Outdoor Learning

To help promote wellbeing across school, each year group will be having an afternoon of outdoor learning each half term. Children will need to bring suitable outdoor clothing, to change into, for these sessions, as they will be taking place outdoors even if the weather is cold or wet.

Year 4 have had their sessions this week. The remaining year groups will have their sessions on the following dates:

Foundation

Green – Tuesday 10th February

Blue – Wednesday 11th February

Red – Thursday 12th February

Year 1

Violet – Tuesday 10th February

Coral – Wednesday 11th February

Ochre – Thursday 12th February

Year 2

Y2MS – Tuesday 3rd February

Y2AC – Wednesday 4th February

Y2RJ – Thursday 5th February

Year 3

Y3A – Tuesday 3rd February

Y3B – Wednesday 4th February

Y3G – Thursday 5th February

Year 5

Y5DF – Wednesday 4th February

Y5BT – Thursday 5th February

Y5HB – Friday 6th February

Year 6

Y6LB – Tuesday 3rd February

Y6NB – Wednesday 4th February

Y6JT – Thursday 5th February

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](#)



Monday 26.01.26 – 30.01.26	Athelstan Readathon Week
Tuesday 10.02.26	Athelstan Choir - Young Voices Performance - Utilita Arena Sheffield
Friday 13.02.26	Break up for half term holiday
Monday 16.02.26	Half term holiday begins
Monday 23.02.26	Children return to school
Thursday 05.03.26	World Book Day
Friday 20.03.26	Red Nose Day

Have a lovely weekend!

