



ATHELSTAN NEWSLETTER



Letter Number 30 – Friday 8th May 2026



Gold Award Winners



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

Y3A	Tehila E
Y3B	Saanvika R-S
Y3G	Oscar S
Y4B	Thomas W
Y4J	Rehana M
Y4W	Hilan Z
Y5BT	Muhammad Z & Liam C-D
Y5DF	Isabelle D
Y5HB	Aria S
Y6JT	Lily H
Y6LB	Hadiya I
Y6NB	Karen W

Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to our year 3 pupil, Gunes B, who won the under 8s South Yorkshire General Gymnastics competition last week. What an incredible achievement!

If your child has achieved something special in their chosen sport, please let us know, so that we can celebrate it with them. Please email Miss Windle on: gwindle@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Attendance Information Letters

As part of our ongoing work to support strong attendance for all pupils, we regularly review attendance and punctuality and communicate with parents and carers where there are any early concerns. We know that every family's circumstances are different and that many of you are already working closely with us. The information below is intended to provide clarity about our Attendance Information Letters.

Attendance Information Letters form part of our early support process and are sent to all households where attendance or punctuality falls below expected levels. They are generated based on attendance data and sent consistently to ensure fairness for all.

These letters are not a warning or a sanction, but a way of keeping you informed, even where communication is already taking place or support is already in place. Our aim is to raise awareness early, recognise any challenges and work together to offer support so that concerns do not escalate and children can attend school regularly and on time.

OTHER NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Staffing News

We are delighted to let you know that Ms Barry returned to work earlier this week on a phased return as joint Acting Headteacher alongside Mrs Watson. Although Ms Barry previously held the role of SENCo before her absence, Mrs Waring will be continuing in this role going forward.

Next Academic Year School Calendar

The school calendar for 2026/2027 is enclosed with this newsletter. This can also be found on the school website: <https://athelstanprimaryschool.web12.juniperwebsites.co.uk/term-dates>

A message from The Children's Commissioner

As Children's Commissioner, I am writing to ask you to ensure all of your children complete my new survey, [The Big Future](#). Under the Children Act 2004, it is my role to promote the views and interests of children in England, and I have done this so far by conducting the two largest ever children's surveys: The Big Ask and The Big Ambition. Now, for the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century. Yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them. That's why I'm launching my final survey, The Big Future.

Your students should complete the survey here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

I want to make sure that I hear from as many children as possible, aged 0-18, from all backgrounds, in all schools and colleges, and in every part of the country. To do that, I need your help.

I am asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like today. I am asking you to share the survey with all the children, parents and carers in your school or college community. Schools and colleges that achieve high participation rates will receive formal recognition for their contribution to amplifying children's voices and encouraging civic engagement, and a summary of their pupils' responses. To support you to do this, I have created a pack of resources which include an introductory video, a lesson plan, and FAQs, which are available on [my website](#). I would be grateful if you could ensure that every child in your school or college has taken part before the deadline of Friday 23 October. I will be publishing my findings next year, and they will be used to advocate at the highest level for solutions that children want to see, to the problems that they tell me are most important to them.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza

Save the Dates

Sports Days

We will be holding individual year group Sports Days again this year. **These will be held in the afternoon.**

Further details will follow, but in the meantime, please see the dates for each year group:

Date	Year Group
Thursday 11th June	Year 2
Friday 12th June	Foundation
Monday 15th June	Year 6
Tuesday 16th June	Year 4
Wednesday 17th June	Year 5
Thursday 18th June	Year 1
Friday 19th June	Year 3

Read Write Inc Session

Thursday 25th June – Time TBC

We would like to invite Parents/Carers to come and watch their children take part in a Read Write Inc Session to learn about how reading is taught and what will be sent home. Further information will follow closer to the time, but we wanted to share the date with you.

Art Competition

We are excited to announce our next art competition which is called... Can you Draw like Rob? You may have heard of the wonderful award winning and bestselling author-illustrator Rob Biddulph. If you haven't then check out his YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/RobBiddulph72/videos> where he offers drawing tutorials for many illustrations. You could also enjoy looking at his books, perhaps have a trip to the library? Can you take part in his tutorials and create your own illustration? You might want to practise the same one or create many different illustrations, it is up to you! Select your favourite and hand it in to your teacher by no later than Tuesday 2nd June. Please ensure your name and class is clearly labelled on the back of your artwork, otherwise your entry won't count.

The competition is open to all year groups and we will announce the winners and give out prizes in assembly.

SEND Parent/Carer Workshops and Meetings

The Parent/Carer workshops and meetings will be taking place in school on the following dates and times:

Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) Parent/Carer Meetings

Thursday 21st May - 9am

Thursday 18th June - 9am

Thursday 9th July - 9am

Please confirm attendance by emailing annamarie.emmett@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk

SEND Workshops

The SEND workshops are run by Kirsty Unwin from Family Learning (she is also a parent of a child in Foundation Stage). The following workshops will be taking place in school:

Emotional Regulation Workshop – Wednesday 10th June - 9am – 11am

Child Anxiety Workshop – Wednesday 17th June - 9am – 11am

Please see the attached flyer on how to book your place on the SEND Workshops.

Are you worried about your child's mental health?

I am a trained Child Mental Health First Aider and the 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.

If you would like an appointment then please contact Selina Ashton

on sashton@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

YEAR GROUP NEWS

Foundation News

Water Bottles

Please can children bring their water bottle to school each day.

Forest School Volunteers

If parents/carers are able to volunteer to help for our Forest School sessions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Y1 News

Book of the Fortnight

Our book of the fortnight is **The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch**. Our vocabulary words are: **concocting, lighthouse, seafood, scavenging, devoured** and **ingenious**.

Outdoor Learning

Y1 children will be taking part in outdoor learning sessions. Children will need to bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear, to change into for these sessions, as they will be taking place outdoors even if the weather is cold or wet.

The remaining sessions will take place on the following days:

Friday 15th May – Ochre Class

Monday 18th May – Coral Class

Y2 News

Lending Library Resources

Could parents/carers please check if they still have any lending library resources at home from when their child was in Year 1, such as speed sound cards, etc.? If so, we would be grateful if these could be returned to school as we are running low.

Y3 News

Y3A Class Treat

Y3A will be having their marble treat next Friday afternoon. Weather permitting, they will be spending time outside. Children can bring a change of clothes and a small toy (no electronics) for the afternoon.

Y4 News

No additional news this week.

Y5 News

Manor Adventure Residential

The total cost of the visit has been confirmed as £184.25. A deposit of £50.00 has already been paid, leaving £134.25 left to pay for the visit. This can be paid for in full or by instalments using your ParentPay account. Please note, the first payment is set at £34.25. The remaining balance can be paid in instalments of £25. If you would like to pay in full, you would need to add all payments to your basket and checkout. The full payment should be made by Tuesday 1st September 2026. 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, resulting in parents/carers having to make the payment again.

Y6 News

Y6 SATs Tests - Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May.

It is absolutely critical that your child is in school next week. Children being absent from school during this time will cause significant difficulties for the whole team. Please support us by ensuring that your child attends and is on time every day.

Breakfast Club during Y6 SATs

During SATs, all Y6 pupils are invited to a special **free** Breakfast Club. Doors open at 8.00am. This allows children to avoid being late, to have breakfast (sometimes their second of the morning) and socialise with their friends before the tests start. We strongly recommend that, if possible, all pupils in Y6 attend; it has a huge benefit for your children during this busy week.

During SATs only, Y6 children do not need to be pre-booked a place via ParentPay.

If your child normally attends Breakfast Club, you do not need to book for them to attend Monday - Thursday of next week.

If you have younger children in school that you would like to attend Breakfast Club during the Y6 SATs, it is essential they are booked in through ParentPay in the usual way. You can now book via ParentPay for the remainder of the school year. If you have any issues doing this, please contact the office as soon as possible, as children in Foundation to Y5 who are not pre-booked in for Breakfast Club during SATs week will be refused entry.

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

**Well done to Y6NB who achieved this week's highest attendance.
Most improved attendance this week was Y2AC.**

Class	This Week's Attendance
Red	95.7
Green	80
Blue	89.7
Coral	98.4
Ochre	85.3
Violet	90.3
Y2RJ	95.8
Y2MS	94.6
Y2AC	98.3
Y3A	96.3
Y3B	97.4
Y3G	94.6
Y4J	90.9
Y4W	90.3
Y4B	94
Y5BT	83.1
Y5HB	91.1
Y5DF	91.3
Y6JT	91.9
Y6NB	99.6
Y6LB	94.8



Monday 11.05.26	Y6 SATs week (Free Breakfast Club for Y6 Children Monday – Thursday)
Friday 22.05.26	Break up for the Spring Bank holiday
Monday 25.05.26	Spring Bank holiday begins
Monday 01.06.26	INSET Day (school closed for children)
Tuesday 02.06.26	Children return to school
	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check begins
Monday 08.06.26	Y1 Phonics Screen Check Week
Thursday 11.06.26 – Friday 19.06.26	Sports Days (see 'others news' for each date)
Wednesday 24.06.26	Class Photographs