ATHELSTAN NEWSLETTER

Letter Number 1 – Friday 4th September 2026

Message from Mrs Watson, Acting Headteacher

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing summer and managed to soak up plenty of sunshine. We are so excited to welcome back our returning families and give a huge, warm greeting to all our new pupils and parents/carers in Reception.

We also have a bumper crop of fantastic new staff members joining our team this year! They are already bringing so much energy to the school, and we can't wait for you to get to know them. Speaking of new arrivals, Mrs Rodgers welcomed a beautiful baby girl last month and both mum and baby are doing really well. Meanwhile, Miss Stewart starts her maternity leave today. We're sending her our absolute best wishes and will be sure to let you all know as soon as there's an update on her new arrival.

As many of you know, Ms Barry is currently undergoing cancer treatment and will be away from school for a little while. We are keeping in close touch with her, sending all our love and positive thoughts her way, and we know you'll join us in wishing her the very best during her recovery.

We'd love to invite you to our first informal parent drop-in on Wednesday 16th September. This will be a great opportunity to pop into school, say hello, and meet your child's new teacher. More details will be included in next week's newsletter. Please make sure to give the newsletter a quick read every week. It's the absolute best way to stay updated on all events, key dates, and day-to-day news happening around our school.

Last but not least...you might have noticed that building work has officially kicked off on the KS2 playground and the portacabins are in place. While it's causing a bit of disruption to our usual routine right now, we're hoping to have a bit more of the playground back very soon. Thank you so much for your patience and support while the hard hats are out!

Mrs Watson

Attendance & Reporting Absences

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

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) providing the reason for their absence. We understand that you may also wish to notify the teacher directly, however, the office must be informed to ensure this isn't missed during the school day.

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.

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

Breakfast Club

Booking slots are now available to book for all year groups, including Foundation Stage, 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 **Targeted free school meals (TFSM)** must pre-book using ParentPay, but will not be charged. Parents/Carers of children who are in receipt of **Expanded free school meals (EFSM)**, will no longer be entitled to free attendance at Breakfast Club and will need to pre-book and pay for each slot. The ParentPay booking system has been set up so if your child is in receipt of Targeted FSM, you will not be charged. Children who are either not eligible for FSM or are in receipt of Expanded FSM will see a £2 charge for each slot.

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 7th September, you would need to book the place no later than 8am on Sunday 6th September 2027.

Foundation Stage children should have brought home a ParentPay activation letter today to enable parents/carers to book.

Dinner Money Price Increase

The price of school meals has now increased to £3.15 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. If you are unsure if your child is entitled to this, please get in touch.

ParentPay One-Click Payments

When making payments on ParentPay, we strongly 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.

After School & Tuition Clubs

After School Clubs will commence on Monday 14th September. Please note, not all year groups will be offered a club. Further information will be sent out by email next week for parents/carers to register their child's interest. Please note, this does not automatically guarantee their place.

If your child has been successful in gaining a place in one of our After School Clubs, you will receive a further confirmation email. If you do not receive an email, unfortunately, your child has not been allocated a place at this time but will be placed on a waiting list for available places.

Dates for your Diary

You will find with this newsletter the School Calendar and Dates for your Diary for this academic 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 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	w/c Monday 14th June 2027
Y4 Multiplication Tables Check	w/c Monday 7th June 2027
Y6 SATS Week	w/c Monday 10th May 2027

Y1-Y6 PE Lessons

Please find details of PE and swimming days below.

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

All jewellery MUST be removed for physical education and related out-of-hours activities (i.e. After School Clubs). Staff will NOT assist any pupil in the removal, or replacement of jewellery prior to, or following, a physical education lesson or out-of-hours activity.

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Coral	PE				PE
Ochre			PE		PE
Violet		PE		PE	
Y2AS		PE		PE	
Y2CL			PE		PE
Y2DC		PE		PE	
Y3AB			PE		PE
Y3HB	PE			PE	
Y3KCB			PE		PE
Y4LG	Swimming			PE	
Y4TB				PE	
Y4EM					PE
Y5BT	PE		PE		
Y5JA		PE	PE		
Y5JM		PE		PE	
Y6DF		PE		PE	
Y6LB	PE	PE			
Y6GW			PE		PE

YEAR GROUP NEWS

Foundation News
Welcome to our new Foundation children - we hope that they have enjoyed their first days of school!
From Monday 7th September, all Foundation children should attend for the morning session – 8:35am – 1:15pm. Children will be having lunch in school. Please ensure you complete and return the meal ordering form even if your child will be having a packed lunch. Children will be starting full days (8:35am – 3:20pm) from Tuesday 8th September.

Unsettled Children
We know that it can be upsetting for Parents/Carers when children are unsettled during drop-off, however, we would like to assure you that they do settle very quickly. Staff will always contact Parents/Carers in the event that any child does not settle or is too unwell to stay at school.

PE Lessons
Foundation children won't be starting PE lessons until after the Christmas holiday.

Teacher Email Addresses
Blue – Miss Cheevers – acheevers@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Green – Mrs Kerfoot – ckerfoot@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk & Mrs Taylor – ltaylor@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Red - Mr McGrath – rmcgrath@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y1 News
Teacher Email Addresses
Coral – Miss Cattell – scattell@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Ochre – Miss Wilkinson – iwilkinson@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Violet - Mrs Jenkins – ljenkins@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk & Mrs Simpkins jsimpkins@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y2 News
Teacher Email Addresses
Y2AS – Mrs Ashton – sashton@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk & Mrs Stillings – gstillings@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y2CL – Miss Lang – clang@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y2DC – Miss Clough – dclough@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y3 News
Teacher Email Addresses
Y3AB – Mrs Barraclough – abarraclough@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y3HB – Miss Bouskill – hbouskill@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y3KCB – Miss Cleaves-Blake – kcleaves-blake@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y4 News
Swimming Lessons
Children in Y4 will start their swimming lessons at Springs Leisure Centre on Monday 7th September. Children should arrive to school wearing their swimming costume or shorts underneath their school uniform. They should bring a towel and underwear to change into after their lesson. Long hair must be tied up and jewellery, goggles or swimming caps are not permitted. Please ensure your child arrives to school on time and remembers their kit each week.
Please follow the link below for some further information: https://www.sheffieldschoolswimming.co.uk/info-for-parents/

Teacher Email Addresses
Y4LG – Mrs Gill – lgill@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y4TB – Mr Bentley – tbentley@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y4EM – Miss Meese – emeese@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y5 News

Teacher Email Addresses

Y5BT – Miss Booth – cbooth@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk & Miss Thornsby – jthornsby@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y5JA – Mr Abbiw – jabbiw@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y5JM – Mr Morrison – jmorrison@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Y6 News

Manor Adventure Meeting

There will be a meeting to discuss arrangements for the residential visit to Manor Adventure on Monday 7th September 3:30pm – 4:00pm. This will take place in the Junior Hall. Please sign in at the office. The meeting will cover all aspects of the visit, including what to bring. We will also collect medical and dietary information and be be able to answer any questions that you might have.

Teacher Email Addresses

Y6DF – Mr Fernley – dfernley@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y6GW – Miss Windle – gwindle@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk
Y6LB – Mrs Baker – lbaker@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Monday 07.09.26	Parent/Carer Manor Adventure Residential Meeting 3:30pm – 4pm
Wednesday 16.09.26	Parent/Carers' drop-in to discuss how well their child has settled into their new class (3:30 – 4:00pm)
Wednesday 14.10.26	Individual Photographs
Thursday 22.10.26	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 23.10.26	INSET Day (school closed for children)
Monday 26.10.26	Half term holiday begins
Monday 02.11.26	Children return to school
Friday 06.11.26	Whole School Flu Immunisations