



# ATHELSTAN NEWSLETTER



**Letter Number 8 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**



## Stars of the Week



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

<b>CORAL</b>	Mason H
<b>OCHRE</b>	Finley A
<b>VIOLET</b>	Eleanor B
<b>Y2AC</b>	Emelia D
<b>Y2MS</b>	Joseph C
<b>Y2RJ</b>	Maluba N

### Attendance & Punctuality

As expected in the winter months, seasonal illnesses are circulating and to support parents, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published [advice](#) on how to reduce their spread. Please see the NHS [guidance](#) to know when a child is too ill for school. Pupils should not miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend school with a cough or cold, unless they have a high temperature, diarrhoea or vomiting. Thank you for your support.

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

### Driving and Parking Around School Grounds

Please can we remind parents/carers about driving safely and to ensure that you park considerately and legally around school grounds and residential areas. We are extremely concerned about the safety of our children. We invest a huge amount of money in keeping our children safe, but we simply do not have the resources to monitor parking and safety outside school grounds.

Please take note of the following points:

- Follow the rules of double yellow lines
- Do not block school gates
- Do not block residential driveways or park on the pavements
- Pay extra due care and attention
- The bus must always have access to the bus stop – no parking is permitted here at all times!
- Be kind and courteous to all members of the community. We urge parents/carers to report any threatening language or behaviour to the Police.

**Safety around school grounds is a constant concern for us, and we rely on all members of our school community to drive and park considerately. Thank you for your support!**

## **OTHER NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Staffing News**

Caleb Bastock will be leaving Athelstan at the end of the Autumn Term (when we break up for the Christmas holidays), as a fantastic opportunity has arisen for him to be the Headteacher at his Martial Arts School. Recruitment to replace Caleb has already taken place, with Daniel Naylor, an experienced teacher, joining our team in January. There will be a handover in December, during which the children in Y4B will meet their new teacher.

### **Donations Plea**

Donations of the following items would be greatly appreciated:

- Any toddler-aged movement/motion type toys for our SEN children.
- Black joggers and leggings for us to use as spare clothing, we are extremely low in ages 6-7, 8-9 and above.
- Underwear, socks and tights in all sizes.
- Any costumes that could be used in the Y1 Nativity.

### **Halloween Safety**

Please follow the link below for some further information regarding keeping children safe during the Halloween period: <https://shorturl.at/ASHYS>

### **Bullying on Social Media**

Please follow the link for useful information regarding bullying on social media: [Bullying on social media | Childline](#)

### **Foodbank Donations**

Thank you to all parents and carers who donated to the Handsworth Food Bank as part of our Harvest collection. The food bank was very thankful for the support, and your donations will make a real difference to those in need in our community. We're hoping to support them again later in the year.



### **Sponsor a Snowflake**

We are still raising money to sponsor a snowflake for The Sheffield Children's Hospital. Thank you for all of the donations received so far. When we have finished our fundraising, we will be able to let you know how much we have raised.

## **Children in Need – Friday 14th November**

On Friday 14th November, children are welcome to wear Pudsey themed items or something yellow on the day. There will also be Children in Need themed class activities in the afternoon.

As part of the day, we're running an Adopt a Bear event and money raised from this event will go towards the Snowflake Appeal for the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity. Please note there is no additional donation needed for the day other than the adopt a bear event. To help make this event a success, we're asking for donations of clean, pre-loved teddies in good condition. Please send any teddy donations to your child's school councillor.

## **Parents/Carers' Evenings**

These will be taking place in school between 3:40pm and 6:30pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November. During the first week back after half-term, parents/carers who are contact priority 1 will receive an email notification from Primary Site with details of how to book a slot.

Booking slots will close at 9am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November and are on a first come, first served basis. If you are unable to keep an appointment that you have booked, please cancel this as soon as possible to enable another parent/carer the chance to book. If you have been unable to book a slot, please email your child's class teacher.

## **A message from our Eco Warriors**

The Athelstan Eco café is back! Please come along during parents/carers evening to grab yourselves a hot drink and maybe a sweet treat to celebrate your amazing children and help Athelstan raise money for The Rainforest Alliance.



## **Book Fair Competition: Open now!**

The book fair will return to Athelstan in November – more details will follow about times and dates for your child's year group. 4 lucky winners in EYFS, KS1, Y3-4 and Y5-6 will be in with a chance of earning a free book from the book fair. All you need to do is design your own bookmark! Please use the template that your teacher has given you. Our Reading Champions will judge the entries, which should be returned to your child's class teacher no later than Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Design a Kit Competition**

Sheffield United have teamed up with kit manufacturer, Errea, to offer school pupils the chance to design a kit. The winner of the "Design a Kit" competition will see their design come to life, as it will be created by Errea and a full set sent to the winner's school! **The template kit for all pupils to design their kit on has been sent as an attachment in the newsletter.** Please give all entries to Miss Windle before the competition ends on 19th December 2025.

# **YEAR GROUP NEWS**

## **Foundation News**

### **Half-term Holiday Task**

Over half-term, we would be grateful if parents/carers could encourage children to practise putting on their own coats and doing up their zips independently.

### **Reading Records and Book Bags**

Please read with your child regularly and write in their reading record every time you have read with them. When a child has read 10 times at home, they receive a special reading award sticker.

Please can parents/carers also ensure their child brings their book bag with reading record and reading books in **every day** to school, so that we can change their books and hear them read.

### **Early Bird Reading Mornings**

After the holidays, we will be starting our Early Bird Reading Mornings on Thursdays. Parents/carers are more than welcome to enter the classroom at morning drop-off and read a book with their child every Thursday.

### **EYFS Instagram**

Foundation Stage have their own account. If you would like to follow us, please search: eyfs\_athelstan as we will start sharing photos and information on here.

### **Y1 News**

No additional news this week.

### **Y2 News**

#### **Safeguarding at Hometown**

When collecting Y2 children at hometime, parents/carers will now need to stand between the barrier and Buster the Bus to allow the classes to come out and line up safely. For safeguarding purposes, it is also really important that parents/carers do not shout at their children to go to them until the teacher has dismissed them. Thank you for your support.

### **Y3 News**

No additional news this week.

### **Y4 News**

After half-term, we will be starting our reading mornings on Wednesdays. Parents/carers are welcome to enter the school at morning drop-off and read a book with their child in class every Wednesday.

### **Y5 News**

No additional news this week.

### **Y6 News**

No additional news this week.



## The Spanish Word of the Week is:



### 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 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
Tuesday 11.11.25	Parents/Carers' Evening 3:40pm – 6:30pm
Thursday 13.11.25	Parents/Carers' Evening 3:40pm – 6:30pm
Friday 14.11.25	Children in Need – Non-Uniform Day & Adopt a Bear
Wednesday 18.11.25 – Friday 21.11.25	Y6 Manor Adventure Residential

## Have a restful Half-Term!

