



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to inform you of a staffing change that might affect your child's class. Mrs. Kerry Davies, who has been seconded to Anker Valley for an interim period, has been successful in her application for the permanent role of Assistant Headteacher at Wilnecote Junior Academy, a school within our Trust. We wish her well and appreciate the absolute commitment and care she has demonstrated in working with our children and families. She has been a fantastic member of the Anker Valley Team, and we will miss her greatly.

Our priority is to ensure that the children continue to have a consistent and happy school life at Anker Valley Primary. We have therefore engaged an experienced Early Years teacher, Mrs. Amarpreet Grewal, who will start full-time in Year Reception after Easter until the end of the academic year. She will attend the school for the next four Wednesdays to get to know the children and their routines, the school and staff; she comes very highly recommended and is very much looking forward to being part of the school family. Opportunities have already been identified to ensure that there is a seamless handover. We will ensure parents can meet her in person. Our most vulnerable children will be given additional time to forge relationships with Mrs. Grewal. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries.

Kindest regards always and thanks, Mrs Horlor

## Year 2 Trip to Tamworth Castle – Saxon Storytelling Workshop – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

The children in Kestrels have been invited to attend a Saxon storytelling workshop 'Tales from the Hoard' with Q20 Theatre Company. This will take place at Tamworth Castle on the afternoon of **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** (World Book Day). This event has no charge, and we are very much looking forward to visiting the Castle again. We will be leaving school just after lunchtime and returning for the end of the school day. As this is World Book Day and the children are invited to dress up on this day as their favourite book characters, please could we kindly ask that costumes are suitable for the walk to and from the Castle and for sitting down for the workshop too.

## Chinese New Year at Anker Valley

The children have had a fantastic day celebrating Chinese New Year. They have taken part in themed activities in class, such as creating dragon puppets, enjoyed a Chinese meal at lunch time and have participated in a Chinese dragon dance workshop! They very much enjoyed showcasing what they learned during the workshop to parents, who joined us for a special assembly at the end of the day.



## Attendance

School attendance this year: 95.33%

School attendance this term: 97.11%

School attendance this week: 95.45%

Dragonflies (this week): 94.33%

Herons (this week): 95.52%

Kestrels (this week): 95.45%

**Congratulations to our children in for winning our weekly attendance award!**

Thank you to all parents who have supported their child to achieve 100% attendance this week.

## Fierté Parental Survey – Feedback on Communication

We want to learn more about how we can help our schools to improve parental engagement, so your time and honesty are much appreciated! This survey will ask questions about the communication between carers and school, confidence in the school's strategy and other aspects. It should take around 15 minutes to complete, and you must do the survey in one sitting. Surveys are completely anonymous and confidential, though the responses will be aggregated for the purpose of analysis.

Please click the following link to begin this survey:

[edurio.com/poll/uLRsyD](https://edurio.com/poll/uLRsyD)

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey.



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*





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## What we have learned this week in Dragonflies...

Dragonflies have had a lovely first week back. The week started with a lovely trip to The Parkridge Centre. The children had a fantastic time, and their behaviour was wonderful. They were able to use their senses to explore different natural materials, they used binoculars to spot birds and even made some magic. In Drawing Club this week, we have been exploring the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt.' In maths we have been focusing on the numbers 6, 7 and 8. Have a lovely weekend.



## What we have learned this week in Herons...

Herons have settled well back into the routines and expectations of Year 1! We cannot believe we are now over halfway through this academic year! This week, our Maths learning has been focused on addition within 20 but has been using our previous learning to help find more efficient ways to add. In English, the children have been creating their own newspaper article informing the reader that the alien spaceship has now disappeared. In our afternoon lessons, we have thoroughly enjoyed playing a game of dodgeball, explored watercolours in Art and understanding what data is in computing. Next week, we will look forward to our walk around the local area looking at the different house types and the local amenities.



## What we have learned this week in Kestrels...

It has been lovely to see the children back after their half term holiday and to hear about their adventures! In Maths this week, Kestrels have continued their learning about multiplication and division. They have applied their mental maths skills to test style questions and have accessed the Numbots resource. In English, we have started to look at our new text 'Malala's Magic Pencil' and the children have completed a book talk session, where they have looked for clues and made predictions about the text. In art, the children, the children have examined the work of two artists Charlie French and Marela Zacarias and have shared their thoughts and opinions on examples of their work. They have written some special messages for Mrs Jones to say thank you for her visit before half term and have explored the different groups which they belong to for the start of our new RE unit. Next week, it is assessment week, and the children will be showcasing their learning so far, this academic year.



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## Dates for your Diary

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – Year 1 Local Area Walk

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 1 Walk into Tamworth Town Centre

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day – Children to come dressed as their favourite story book characters./ Year 2 Saxo Story Telling at Tamworth Castle.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Ladies Tea and Cake – Mothers or grandmothers are invited to join us from **2:30pm – 3:30pm** for tea and cake to celebrate Mother’s Day. Admission is £3.50 per adult which is now available to pay on Parent Pay

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Non School Uniform Day – donations of chocolate for chocolate bingo.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 1 Minibus Mystery Tour

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – SEND Target Review Week

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Chocolate Bingo – 5:00-7:00pm Adults £5 per ticket, Children £3.50 per ticket. Includes drinks and snacks.

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – Rockit Music Steel Pan Band Performance (Year 2 only) – Parents welcome 2:45-3:15pm

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March** – Easter Disco (Reception – Year 2) 4:30pm – 5:30pm (£3.00 per child)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – Easter Bonnet Parade following End of Term Assembly at approximately 9:45am – Parents invited to watch our Easter Bonnet Parade

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March –Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holiday**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April** – Year 2 Trip to Llandudno (arrive at school for 7:30am)

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April** – Indian and Irish Dancing Workshops (all classes) International Day of Dance

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** – Inset Day (School Closed to pupils)

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** – Maypole Dancing Workshop (all classes)

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May** – Walk to School Week

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May –Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Whitsun Half Term**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 1 Trip to Twycross Zoo

## Spring / Summer Term Assemblies

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – Kestrels Family Assembly

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – Herons Family Assembly

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April** – Kestrels Family Assembly

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April** – Herons Family Assembly

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May** – Dragonflies Family Assembly

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May** – Kestrels Family Assembly

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Dragonflies Family Assembly

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – End of Term Assembly

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April** – Dragonflies Family Assembly

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** – Kestrels Family Assembly

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May** – Herons Family Assembly

### Chocolate Bingo

Chocolate Bingo will be taking place Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets for adults are £5 each and children’s tickets are £3.50 each. You are now able to make payment for this event on Parent Pay. Extra details will be shared closer to the date.

### Easter Disco

Our Easter Disco will take place Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Tickets are £3 per child which includes crisps, a biscuit and juice. You are now able to make payment for this event on Parent Pay. Extra details will be shared closer to the date.

### Ladies Tea & Cake

To celebrate Mother’s Day, we invite mothers or grandmothers into school on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, from 2:30-3:30pm. to join the children for tea and cake in the school hall. Admission is £3.50 per adult and is now available to purchase on Parent Pay. **As this is for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, space in the hall will be limited, therefore we ask that only one parent per family attends and that pushchairs and prams are left outside.**

**Deadline for booking is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

### Safeguarding—Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

**Mrs Natalie Horlor** (Head of School) [nhorlor@ankervalley.org](mailto:nhorlor@ankervalley.org)

**Mrs Maria Hamblin** (Executive Head teacher and CEO) [CEO@fierte.org](mailto:CEO@fierte.org)

**Mrs Julia Jones** (Safeguarding Lead Governor) [office@ankervalley.org](mailto:office@ankervalley.org)

*The school Safeguarding Policy is available to view on our school website.*



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