



Friday 3rd November 2021

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by saying how wonderful it was to see all of our parents at our consultation evenings this week and want to express our thanks for you taking the time to complete our questionnaires. We had some lovely comments about how happy the children are at school, how well they have settled, the family atmosphere, level of support in school and the progress being made.

We are always looking for ways to improve and you have told us that: communication through emails could be better; access to before / after care could be easier; Tapestry (problems logging in and too few observations) and the new parking restrictions on the road outside the school are making parking during drop off and pick up difficult. Unfortunately, the parking restrictions were instated by the Highways Agency and Council, in order to keep the children safe before school and at home time, so we are unable to offer a resolution for this. However, following on from your feedback we will:

- Ensure that there is a doorbell fitted in the main reception to alert Before / After Care that a parent is waiting (this will hopefully be over the next week).
- Offer support to any parents still unable to access Tapestry through a drop in session on Monday 8th November at 3:30pm in the Reception classroom.
- Ensure that children have regular 'Wow!' moments shared on Tapestry from Mrs Free in addition to their long observations (one per half term).
- We will ensure that emails are sent only to you from Parent Portal or office@ankervalley.org and if you need to contact a member of staff, we ask that you use this email address as both myself and Miss Elliott can access and respond via this it.

We really do hope that this will help to improve our school, but please do not hesitate to contact us if we can do anything else to support in anyway. Have a lovely weekend. Best wishes, Mrs Horlor.

What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

The children in the Butterflies room have bought in vegetables to make soup. They used different tools to peel and chop the vegetables, discussing how to use them safely, before putting the chopped pieces into the soup maker. We then listened to the different noises the soup maker made before tasting our delicious soup.

Our creative area has been very busy this week with the children making Diwali Mehndi hand patterns and firework pictures using lots of different sparkly resources and mixing colours.

In our promotion of good oral hygiene, the children have been brushing their teeth after lunch and we have talked about the importance of cleaning our teeth.



Congratulations!

Stars of the Week:

Freddie and Eva (Dragonflies)
Noah (Butterflies)

Reader of the Week:

Tilly (Dragonflies)

Outstanding Citizen:

Isla-Rae (Dragonflies)



Attendance

Dragonflies (This week): 89.86%

Dragonflies (This term): 94.15%

Our attendance for this week continues to be much lower than we would like to see it.

Can we please encourage you to send your child to school every day (unless displaying Covid symptoms), we will always let you know if they are unwell in school.

If your child has Covid symptoms (high temperature, continuous cough or loss of taste or smell), they **must isolate** until results from a PCR test are received in line with government guidelines.

Samaritans Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

The Samaritans Shoe Box appeal aims to provide support and send a message of hope to as many children around the world in poverty-stricken countries, whose families cannot afford to celebrate Christmas. We would like to support one of our families with their goal of filling 20 shoes boxes by **22nd November**.

We would not want anyone to feel under pressure in the lead up to Christmas, but if anyone is able to assist (however small) we would be really grateful.

I will send out, along with this newsletter, lists of the kinds of items that they need and if you are able to support with this, donations can be made to the school office.

Thank you in advance for your support.





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What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

This week in Dragonflies, we have been learning about Bonfire Night and how to stay safe when watching firework displays. On our creative table, the children have created some of their own firework pictures, using a range of different media. Look out for their pictures on our outdoor display board!

We have also been finding out about Diwali. Diwali is a five-day festival of light, celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. The main day of the celebration this year was the 4th of November. The children have listened to a story about the festival and watched a video clip, which showed a Hindu family preparing to celebrate the festival. After watching this video clip, the children created some artwork linked to the festival. As part of our learning about fireworks this week, we have been back to the cookery room and made some edible sparklers! It was a little bit messy but lots of fun and they were delicious!

We have continued our writing our name daily, handwriting practice and our phonics sessions. This week we have been introduced to the sounds ff, ss, zz and j.

In our reading groups, we have read with an adult three times in school. We will be bringing home a new book linked to our phonics learning, as well as our library books. Please could we ask that you make sure your child's reading book and reading diary is in school daily.

Mrs Free and Miss Garrett would also like to say thank you to all those children who have already brought a pair of named wellies in and puddle suits, so that they can always access the outdoor area.





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Dates for your Diary

8th November – Flu Immunisations (Dragonflies) - Postponed

19th November – Children in Need Day – Children to wear something spotty. N.B Date Change!

3rd December – 9:15am – Christingle Family Assembly

14th December – 8:15am – 5:00pm Santa Safari Trip

10th December – 3:30pm – 5:30pm – Christmas Family Film Night N.B New event!

16th December – 9:15am – Reception Nativity and Carols

17th December – Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Party

20th December – Christmas Holidays Start

4th January – Inset Day (School closed to pupils)

5th January – Spring Term Starts

21st February – 25th February – Half Term



Children in Need Day – 19th November

Please note the date has changed on the calendar!

The date for Children in Need had not been confirmed when the diary was planned, we therefore used last years date to predict when it would be.

It has now been confirmed as **Friday 19th November** not the 12th as originally planned. We look forward to seeing the children wearing something spotty with their school uniform.

Reception Starters for September 2022

If your child's fifth birthday is between **1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023**, you can now apply for a Reception place for September 2022 using the Staffordshire County Council website.

For further information or support with applications or to arrange a visit to the school, please contact our main office on 01827 949310 or via email on office@ankervalley.org. We look forward to meeting you.

Santa Safari – 14th December 2021

Dragonflies will be bringing home with them a letter about their first exciting trip to West Midlands Safari Park, where they will meet Father Christmas as well as seeing lots of different animals.

Please return the permission slip by no later than **Friday 3rd December** and ensure that all payments are made via Parent Pay. Please contact the school office if you are experiencing any difficulties or have any questions.



Christmas Family Film Night

As we only have one class this year, we have decided to hold a family film night in place of the Christmas Fayre. We will be showing *'Polar Express'* and there will be a chance to enjoy hotdogs, hot chocolate and popcorn, At the end of the film, the children will have a visit from Father Christmas and receive a gift. There will be small charge of £1 each for this and tickets will be available in the coming weeks.

Safeguarding – Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Natalie Horlor (Head of School) nhorlor@ankervalley.org

Mrs Maria Hamblin (Executive Head teacher and CEO) CEO@fierte.org

Mr Toby Swift (Safeguarding Lead Governor) office@ankervalley.org

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