



Friday 12th November 2021

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our golden virtues are: Respect, Kindness, Courtesy, Determination and Care and this week our children have made us incredibly proud by demonstrating these; it made it incredibly difficult for Dragonflies and Butterflies to choose their stars of the week!

In addition to demonstrating our virtues, the children have been further developing their Cultural Capital this week. Cultural Capital is defined by the DfE as being 'the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.' By learning about the significance of Remembrance Day and travelling to Glascoate Academy for a special assembly and 2 minute silence, it gave Dragonflies the chance to find out about how people's lives, throughout the world, can be affected by war, thus contributing to their Cultural Capital.

We were so proud of our Dragonflies – they represented Anker Valley beautifully and enjoyed meeting other pupils from across the trust. We look forward to them having opportunities throughout the year to visit some of our other schools.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend, Mrs Horlor.

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week:

Hope (Dragonflies)

Ollie (Dragonflies)

Hallie (Butterflies)



Reader of the Week:

Daniel (Dragonflies)

Outstanding Citizen:

Seb (Dragonflies)



What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

This week, the Butterflies have been extremely busy. They have been developing their fine motor skills using rolling pins and cutters to make shapes in playdoh before adding loose parts.

On Tuesday, we had a visit from athletic coach Sarah. The Butterflies all joined in moving around the room like different jungle animals and could feel their hearts beating faster.

We ended the week, by learning about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies. The children observed a 2 minute silence before making poppies. We are very proud of the children.



Happy 5th birthday to Michael in Dragonflies!

We hope you have a lovely day filled with celebrations.

Best wishes, your Anker Valley Family.



A message from Julia Jones – the head of our local governing body

Everyone receives a warm welcome at Anker Valley. The school has a real family feel and you are a key part of that. As Chair of the Governing Body, I am really enjoying being part of the family and it has been most rewarding meeting you and the wonderful staff at various events this term. Even more rewarding was hearing your comments at Parents' Evening; you are so appreciative. It was also good to note the school's very prompt response, in the next day's newsletter, to any concerns you raised.

We are still in need of parent governors, so if you are interested in joining us, please contact the school for more information. I can assure you that you will receive the warmest of welcomes.

Mrs. Julia Jones

Attendance

Dragonflies (This week): 93.98%

Dragonflies (This term): 94.19%

Our attendance has improved this week, but 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.



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What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

This week in Dragonflies, we have been learning about the importance of Remembrance Day, in preparation for our visit to Glascote Primary Academy where we took part in a special Remembrance assembly. The children were respectful, polite and fabulous ambassadors for our school; we are proud of them all!

In the creative area this week, we have been painting poppy pictures using a range of media and thinking about the different colour poppies people may choose to wear.

In our maths learning, we have been thinking about the numbers 4 and 5. We have considered what these numbers look like and the different ways we can represent them with objects in the classroom. We have been using the part whole model to show ways in which we can make these numbers, for example $2 + 3 = 5$.

In our role play area, the children have shown an interest in pretending to be doctors and nurses. Mrs Horlor found some first aid kits and accident reporting forms to use and the children enjoyed showing how kind and caring they could be to their patients.

We have had some new construction equipment delivered for the outside area and have enjoyed seeing who could build the tallest tower and whether we could make the tower as tall as Mrs Free!

This week in phonics, we have learned the sounds v, w, y and x and have continued to practice our letter formation in our daily handwriting sessions. The children have continued with their reading and will have a new phonics reading book and a library book to read at home this weekend. Please could we ask that reading diaries and reading books are in school daily.





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Dates for your Diary

- 19th November** – Children in Need Day – Children to wear something spotty.
- 1st December at 2:30pm** – Parents are invited to come and decorate the Christmas Tree **NEW EVENT!**
- 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-Polar Express (£2 adults, £1 children)
- 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
- 3rd March** – World Book Day (More details to follow)
- 11th – 22nd April** – Easter Holidays



Children in Need Day – 19th November

Just a reminder that on **Friday 19th November**, children can come into school wearing something spotty along with their school uniform e.g., spotty tights, socks, cardigan, jumper, headband, etc. There will be no charge for this, however if you would like to make a donation to the Shoe Box Appeal, we would very much appreciate it.

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.

Family Film Night Tickets Polar Express (U)



Tickets for our Family Film Night on the **10th December** can now be purchased from Miss Elliott in the main office. They are priced at £2 per adult and £1 per child and included in this price will be a hot dog, popcorn and hot chocolate.

We also have raffle tickets on sale where you can win a fantastic Christmas Hamper. These are priced at 50p per strip and can also be purchased from Miss Elliott in the office.

Samaritans Shoe Box Appeal



Just a reminder that we are still collecting items for the Samaritans Shoe Box Appeal, for children aged between 2 and 4 years, until **22nd November**. Donations can be sent to the Main Office or to classrooms.

We thank you in advance for your support with this.

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.