



Friday 19th November 2021

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking you for supporting our spotty day today, your generosity for the Samaritan's Shoe Box Appeal is overwhelming.

Our attendance is still very low this week and for the term. We appreciate that there are lots of colds circulating at the moment, however, as long as your child is not presenting with Covid symptoms, we really would encourage you to send them into school. We will take good care of them and will always ring you if we feel that they do need to go home.

At Anker Valley, your child's attendance is of the upmost importance in order to give them the best opportunity to achieve their full potential. Unbroken attendance at school is important for learning and although there will be times when absence is unavoidable, when attendance levels fall below 90% it is our responsibility to monitor this closely. Where an individual absence rate falls below 90%, we may request that you provide medical evidence to prevent an unauthorised absence being recorded. If you are having difficulties getting your child into school for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact us - we are here to help.

Best wishes for the weekend, Mrs Horlor.

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week:

Edith (Dragonflies)

Grayson (Dragonflies)

Chance (Butterflies)



Reader of the Week:

Ben (Dragonflies)

Outstanding Citizen:

Eva Mae (Dragonflies)



What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

This week in the Butterfly room, we have been busy making bird feeders using our fine motor skills to thread Cheerios onto the pipe cleaners. We then enjoyed watching the birds in the garden eat them.

We have been discussing the importance of brushing our teeth, and as well as brushing our teeth after lunch, we have been exploring other oral hygiene activities.

The children loved joining the Dragonflies this week in their PE lesson on the apparatus. The children showed a great willingness to explore and take risks.



Colder Weather



With the colder weather now upon us and the forecast of snow towards the end of the month, could we please ask that you ensure that your child has a coat with them in school every day.

In the unlikely event of a school closure, we will email parents as soon as possible to inform you of the closure and we will also post information on the school website, Twitter, Facebook and the Staffordshire County Council website.

If you have recently changed any of your contact details e.g. email address or phone number, can you please inform Miss Elliott in the school office.

Attendance

Dragonflies (This week): 80.66%

Dragonflies (This term): 92.98%

There have continued to be lots of germs in school this week, which have really hit our weekly attendance.

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 is National Anti-Bullying week and this year's theme is 'One kind word'. In Dragonflies, the children have been thinking about our school virtue of kindness. They have listened to different stories about being kind, including *The Hugasaurus* and *The Smartest Giant in Town*. Dragonflies considered the different ways in which they can show kindness to others.

In maths this week, the children have continued to develop their concept of number thinking about the number 5. With Mrs Horlor on Monday, they read the story of *The Giant Turnip* and talked about how the story linked to the number 5. They have continued to think about simple calculations and to use the part-whole model too.

In the outside area this week, the children have enjoyed making tracks for the cars using the tyres, guttering and crates; they talked about how to adjust the track height to make the cars go slower or faster to win the race.

In handwriting this week, the children have amazed Mrs Free and Miss Garrett by writing some of the words they have been practising to read, for example, the, go, and, is, I and no. The children have all had a go at writing a sentence about Remembrance Day and the special assembly they had last week at Glascote Academy. They have drawn some fabulous pictures of their memories of this experience too. Keep your eyes out for some photos of their beautiful work on Tapestry. Please do let us know if you are having difficulties accessing your accounts or if you are unsure of how to share photos from events at home too.

In phonics this week, we have learned the sounds z, qu and ch. The children have taken home new phonics flash cards and word cards to practice. These cards cover all the sounds and new words that we will be covering over the remainder of this half term before Christmas. Please try to practice using these cards daily at home.

The children have also started to learn the songs for their Christmas nativity performance and the Christingle service as well.





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Dates for your Diary

- 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



Santa Safari Trip – Dragonflies

Just a reminder about payments for the Santa Safari trip in December; we will need to provide final numbers to West Midlands Safari Park by **Monday 29th November**. Payments can be made on Parent Pay and we would like to thank those who have returned the consent form and payments to date.



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.

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.

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.