



Friday 26th November 2021

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week of the autumn term has whizzed by, and we are fast approaching December! This week has once again seen a real sense of purpose in Dragonflies and Butterflies, and we could not be prouder of their fantastic achievements. The children are delighted to be wearing their house badges and have now begun to earn house points for demonstrating our Golden Virtues. There is a real sense of competition to see which house will have earned the most points by Christmas, from both the children and the staff.

On Monday afternoon, we have a visit from our Local Governing Body, who will be meeting with staff and visiting the classroom to look at the learning that is taking place and the provision. They would really value the chance to speak to parents as well, so will be available after school if you are able to spare a few moments.

Next week sees the start of December and our Christmas celebrations; we cannot wait for you to join us for all the wonderful events we have planned. Best wishes for the snowy weekend that is forecast, Mrs Horlor.

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week:

Daniel (Dragonflies)
Nylah (Dragonflies)
Matei (Butterflies)



Reader of the Week:

Freddie (Dragonflies)
Ben (Dragonflies)

Outstanding Citizen:

Talissa (Dragonflies)

What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies



With the arrival of the cold frosty mornings, we have been talking about the changes in the weather and wrapping up warm by wearing hats and gloves. The children have enjoyed making frosty pictures based on Van Gogh's 'Starry Nights'. They painted on foil using different shades of blue and white and finished it with a sprinkling of glitter.

The Trim trail caused great excitement with the children this week as well, and enabled them to show their confidence in risky play, balancing and climbing, as they travelled along the outdoor apparatus.



Decorating the Christmas Tree



Tamworth Rotary Club and our wonderful local Co-Op have been incredibly generous and donated us a Christmas tree for the school hall and one for our entrance hall.

We would love it if you could join us from **2:30pm on Wednesday 1st December** to decorate the trees. If you have any spare decorations, we would be incredibly grateful of these, in addition to the ones that Dragonflies have been making at home.

There will also be the opportunity to support your child to write a letter to Father Christmas, which we will taking the children to post on Thursday 2nd December, thanks to the kind donation of stamps from the Royal Mail Postal Department in Tamworth.

Attendance

Dragonflies (This week): 98.14%

Dragonflies (This term): 93.12%

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% = 4 weeks missed per year.

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year.

Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.



Friday 26th November 2021

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'



What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

Following the children's interest, this week we have been learning about animals, which are nocturnal. The children have been using their number skills and imaginations to feed owlets worms and mice. They have completed some owl themed addition calculations, labelled pictures of owls and have enjoyed playing with the woodland small world toys and looking at books about owls too.

In our maths work this week, the children have been learning about squares, rectangles, and the number four. On Monday, Mrs Horlor taught the children about the properties of the shapes and the children then had a go at sorting the large foam shapes into groups and looking for these shapes in our classroom environment.

Dragonflies have been working hard to learn the last four digraphs of our Phase 2 phonics: sh, th, ng and nk. Next week, the children will be showing Mrs Free how many of the sounds they have remembered from this half term.

This week the children have enjoyed having some of the mummies, daddies and grandparents join them for a reading workshop and we have one more reading group to go next week. As part of our work on reading we are going to introduce 'Rainbow Readers'. Every Friday when the children receive a new reading book and library book the children's reading diaries will be checked. When reading at home has been recorded in the children's reading diaries it will be counted and for every 25 reads recorded the children will receive a special certificate (red - 25, orange - 50, yellow - 75, green- 100, blue - 125, indigo - 150, violet - 175 and gold -200), when they achieve 200 reads, they will be awarded with a special certificate and prize!

The children have continued to practise their letter formation in our handwriting sessions, and we have been remembering to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops when writing simple sentences. Some of the Dragonflies have made Mrs Free and Miss Garrett very proud this week by writing their names independently for the first time too!

We have also been busy practising the songs for our Christmas play 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' and our special Christingle assembly next Friday.





Friday 26th November 2021

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'



Dates for your Diary

- 1st December at 2:30pm** – Parents are invited to come and decorate the Christmas Tree
- 3rd December** – 9:15am – Christingle Family Assembly
- 10th December** – 3:30pm – 5:30pm – Christmas Family Film Night-Polar Express (£2 adults, £1 children)
- 14th December** – 8:15am – 5:00pm Santa Safari Trip
- 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



News Flash!

The Christmas post box will arrive in school on **1st December** for children to be able to post Christmas cards to each other. There will be a collection and delivery every day.

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.



Family Film Night Tickets Polar Express (U)

Tickets for our Family Film Night on the **10th December** can still be purchased from Miss Elliott in the main office until Friday 3rd December. 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.

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.