



Friday 10th December 2021

# Anker Valley Newsletter

*'Inspiring all to excellence'*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is really starting to feel festive in school now and hard to believe that we only have one week of this term left. It has been lovely to hear Dragonflies rehearsing 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' on the stage and I know that you will be thoroughly entertained by them next week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with continuing to follow the Covid guidelines and can I please remind you that if you are coming into the school, that you please wear a mask unless medically exempt.

This week, teachers have been assessing the progress that the children have made this term. We have been so impressed with not only how well their reading and mathematics have improved, but also their personal, social and emotional well-being. We are looking forwards to seeing them continue to flourish in the Spring term.

Next week is a busy week, with the Santa Safari, Nativity and Christmas party and we are looking forward to sharing these special moments with you. Have a lovely weekend, best wishes, Mrs Horlor.

## Congratulations!

### Stars of the Week:

Luna (Dragonflies)

Michael (Dragonflies)

Jax (Butterflies)



### Reader of the Week:

Isla-Rae (Dragonflies)

### Outstanding Citizen:

Hollie (Dragonflies)



## What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

This week, we have been busy doing lots of creative activities and practising our Christmas songs, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. In the creative area, we have been mark making in flour to develop our mark making skills.

The elves decided to make seed angels in our bird food, so we decided to make some bird feeders with the seeds and pinecones to hang on the fence.

We are looking forward to another fun and busy week next week before the Christmas break.



### Pre-Existing Injury Forms

If your child arrives at school with an existing injury from home, we ask that you inform class teachers and that you are able to complete a 'Pre-Existing Injury' Form, detailing the injury and how it occurred. This will ensure staff members have the necessary information in case your child becomes unwell at school as a result of the injury. If staff members notice a pre-existing injury which they were not made aware at drop off, you will be asked to complete a 'Pre-Existing Injury' Form at collection. The form is nothing to be concerned about, it is simply to ensure that we are undertaking our Child Protection duties in school.

All forms will be archived confidently.

### Attendance

**Dragonflies (This week): 97.50%**

**Dragonflies (This term): 93.09%**

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.



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## What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

It has been another busy week for Dragonflies. In our creative area, the children have been decorating bauble pictures for the Co-op to use as part of their Christmas display. Make sure you have a look next time you visit the shop!

Dragonflies have used their number skills to count Christmas objects, find the matching piece of Numicon and write the correct digit. They have also been thinking about 'one less' by counting down the number of days until Christmas using our class advent calendar to help.

The children have been busy writing Christmas cards for each other in our writing area and have enjoyed using notepads, post it notes, and clipboards to practise their mark making skills, as they explore the different areas of our classroom.

In phonics this week, we have been revisiting sounds from across this half term. We have also been continuing to practise our letter formation in our handwriting sessions and are trying really hard to make sure that we are all able to write our names. Please keep practising the phonics flashcards and word cards, which have been sent home, to support with this.

With Mrs Horlor this week, the children enjoyed having the PE equipment out in the hall and thought about travelling up, down and across the equipment in different ways. In RE, Mrs Horlor shared the Christmas story with the help of Reverend Freddie Fisher.

Dragonflies have also been very busy practising for their performance of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' next week. Please remember to send costumes in by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> at the latest ready for our dress rehearsal and to keep practising lines if you have a speaking part! The children are looking forward to performing it for you on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December.





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## Dates for your Diary

**14<sup>th</sup> December** – 8:15am – 5:00pm Santa Safari Trip

**16<sup>th</sup> December** – 9:15am – Reception Nativity and Carols

**17<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Party

**20<sup>th</sup> December** – **Christmas Holidays Start**

**4<sup>th</sup> January** – **Inset Day (School closed to pupils)**

**5<sup>th</sup> January** – **Spring Term Starts**

**21<sup>st</sup> February – 25<sup>th</sup> February** – Half Term

**3<sup>rd</sup> March** – World Book Day (More details to follow!)

**11<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April** – Easter Holidays

### Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Children can wear their Christmas jumpers / Christmas Party Clothes on this day (non-uniform)



### Colder Weather



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.

### Happy 5<sup>th</sup> birthday to Jenson in Dragonflies!



We hope you have a lovely day filled with celebrations. Best wishes, your Anker Valley Family.

### Raffle Tickets

We still have raffle tickets on sale for our fantastic Christmas Hampers. These are priced at 50p per strip and can be purchased from Miss Elliott in the office.

### Christmas Dinner Arrangements

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**



We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Dinner next week. Due to the number of parents that are attending, we have made the decision to stagger the meals as follows:

*Butterflies (Nursery) 11:30am – 12:15pm*

*Dragonflies (Reception) 12:30pm – 1:15pm*

We kindly ask that you wear masks until you are seated in the hall and that you do not attend if you have Covid symptoms or have had a positive lateral flow test prior to the event.

### Reception Starters for September 2022

If your child's fifth birthday is between **1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:office@ankervalley.org). We look forward to meeting you.

### 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)

**Mr Toby Swift** (Safeguarding Lead Governor) [office@ankervalley.org](mailto:office@ankervalley.org)

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