



Friday 14th January 2022

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents and Carers, we hope that you had a restful Christmas holiday, and we are delighted to have the children back in school, for what promises to be a busy Spring term.

This week, we had a monitoring visit from Julia Jones, our Chair of Governors and Vicki Blundell, our Vice Chair. They visited Dragonflies and spoke to staff and parents about inclusion at Anker Valley, focusing in particular on the support provided for our SEND learners. It was a very positive experience, with school staff described as *'passionate to ensure that children succeed,'* and our pupils as *'demonstrating such care,'* towards each other. We could not agree more with these comments, and they only further support our drive to grow a fully inclusive environment where all of our pupils are inspired to excellence.

Other strengths identified by our Governors included:

- Parental involvement and liaison.
- Support received by the parents from staff.
- Staff teamwork, accountability and ambition is strong, to enable every child to make progress; achievement is an intrinsic part of the culture.
- The culture of inclusivity and care match the values of the school.

We are always looking for ways to further improve and our identified next steps are:

- Transition (SEND). *We would like to work with parents to develop a strong Transition programme and this is the focus for our next Governor monitoring in April (more information will follow).*
- Development of effective pupil voice for SEND learners.

Best wishes for the weekend ahead and as always, should you need us we are always at the end of the telephone or email. Mrs Horlor.

What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

Butterflies have been talking about their bodies and what happens when we exercise. At the beginning of the week, they wrapped up warm and enjoyed completing the trim trail. We then went into the hall to take it in turns choosing how to move. The children chose to move like crabs, monkeys, elephants, penguins, kangaroos, butterflies, snakes, and crocodiles. We finished the week, by going on a bear hunt with Cosmic Kids Yoga, where the children had lots of fun following the instructions.

Next week, we are finding out about healthy eating and trying fruit. If you have any magazines with pictures of food, please can we have them to cut up. Thank you.



Congratulations!

Stars of the Week:

Michael (Dragonflies)
Freddie (Dragonflies)
Orion (Butterflies)



Reader of the Week:

Mya

Outstanding Citizen:

Sophie



Dragonflies Trip to the Parkridge Centre

On **Thursday 7th April**, Dragonflies will be going to the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Parkridge Centre. This is to link in with the children's learning about fairy tales, nature and wildlife. The children will take part in four educational sessions and activities; The Teddy Bear Adventure, Duck Tales, Magical Forest, and Bugs and Bees – more information about these sessions can be found online using the following the link; https://issuu.com/warwickshire_wildlife_trust/docs/latest_education_pack_-_print_ready.

A letter with full details along with instructions on payments will be sent home next week.

Attendance

Dragonflies (This year): 93.67%

Dragonflies (This term): 95.69%

Dragonflies (This week): 94.76%

Congratulations to our children and parents in Dragonflies with 100% attendance this week:

Isla-Rae, Grayson, Daniel, Freddie, Luna, Ben, Tilly, Jenson, Eva-Mae, Evan, Hollie, Hope, Michael, Edison, Harper, Mya, Nylah, Eva, Sophie and Ollie.

Well done for being in school on time every day.



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What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

Dragonflies have made a fantastic start to the Spring term; we are really proud of them for settling back into their routines.

Since returning to school, we have been reading the story of The Gingerbread Man. In the creative area, the children have practised their cutting skills to make their own gingerbread people. They have used felt tips and crayons to colour pictures and have used a range of collage materials too. Dragonflies have also been using a gingerbread man game on the interactive whiteboard to practise their recognition and ordering of numbers to 5.

In writing this week, Mrs Free has been looking at how well the children are getting on with writing their first and surnames. When practising their names at home, please try to encourage the children to use the Little Wandle letter formation rhymes, to help with where to start each of the letters.

In phonics this week, Dragonflies have started to learn sounds from Phase 3 of the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds programme and have been introduced to the digraphs (two letters one sound) ai, ee, and oa and the trigraph (three letters one sound) 'igh'. The children have been practising writing these sounds in their handwriting sessions too.

At lunchtime, the children have enjoyed putting their wellies on and playing in the muddy puddles and on the trim trail. Please could we ask that all children have wellies and puddle suit or waterproof trousers to wear at this time of year, which can be left in school.

During their 'Rock It' music session, the children have been practising singing and playing the keyboards, bells and steel pans, ready to share with parents next Monday 17th January at 9.15am. They are very excited to show what they have learned since September.





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Dates for your Diary

Friday 4th February - Number Day (Children to come dressed in numbers / as their favourite number)

Tuesday 8th February - Safer Internet Day (More details soon!)

Monday 14th February - Valentine's Day Menu (children only)

Monday 7th February - Non-Uniform Day (Chocolate donations for bingo night)

Friday 11th February - Bingo Night (tickets to go on sale very soon!)

Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February – Half term

Tuesday 1st March - Pancake Day Race (More details soon!)

Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day (Children to come dressed as their favourite book character)

Friday 18th March - Holi Festival of Colour

Friday 25th March - Mother's Day Lunch

Thursday 7th April - Dragonflies Trip to Parkridge Centre

Friday 8th April – 9:00am - End of term assembly and Easter Bonnet Parade

Number Day

On **Friday 4th February**, we are inviting the children to come to school dressed as their favourite number. The children will have a fun-filled day where they will apply their maths knowledge in everyday contexts.

Here are some costume ideas...



Rainbow Readers

Congratulations to our Rainbow Readers this week!



Mother's Day Lunch

On **Friday 25th March**, we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday by inviting our lovely mums or grandmas to join the children for a delicious roast dinner. Payments for this can be made on ParentPay and we kindly ask that only one adult joins each child.



Happy 5th Birthday
to
Daniel and Tilly



We hope that you had a wonderful birthday.

From
Your Anker Valley Family

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.