



Friday 21st January 2022

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by expressing my thanks for your patience and understanding with regards to the additional measures that we have had to put into place this week, in light of the increase that we have experienced in Covid cases. We will continue to keep you informed if we have to increase measures further, and hope that you understand that cancelling events, restricting visitors in school, etc would only be done as a last resort. I would like to send our best wishes to our staff and families that are currently unwell; we look forward to having you back in school very soon. I also feel that it is pertinent to express my thanks to staff in school, who have taken on additional roles as a result of staff absences; it is greatly appreciated.

We had our second governing body meeting on Thursday evening, where we shared school development points, attainment and the outcomes from our recent monitoring in school. We were also delighted to welcome Mr Andy Ebrey as our first parent governor. If you would like to become involved in our Local Governing Body, there is still one place remaining. Meetings are held termly and where governors are able to, there are opportunities to be involved in monitoring during the school day. For further information, please express your interest via email to office@ankervalley.org and a governor's application pack will be sent to you.

This term, we are working hard to build more links within our local community. We have been liaising with Tamworth Library (where the children will have the opportunity to join and borrow a book), Spital Chapel and St Editha's Church and are looking to confirm dates over the next few weeks for Dragonflies to visit them. On Thursday 3rd February, we are welcoming Tamworth Borough Council to Anker Valley, as we have offered the use of our Year 1 classroom for their forthcoming By-election. This will not affect the opening of the school, as this room can be locked from the rest of the building to ensure the children are safe. Further information about this will be in next week's newsletter.

Have a wonderful safe weekend. Best wishes Mrs Horlor

What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

This week we have been finding out about different fruits. We used our senses to taste and smell different fruits such as: pomegranates, persimmon, mango, grapefruit, nectarines, and lemons. We talked about the different fruits, where they grow and what they look, taste, and feel like. The children then used different fruits in the creative area, painting and exploring mark making opportunities. We have also been talking about healthy eating and enjoyed sharing the book Handa's Surprise.



Congratulations!

Stars of the Week:

Jenson (Dragonflies)

Eva (Dragonflies)

Matei (Butterflies)

Reader of the Week:

Isla-Rae

Outstanding Citizen:

Harper



Rock It Music Concert

On Monday, Dragonflies performed a showcase of everything that they have learnt with Mr Sullivan during their Rock It Music lessons. They demonstrated incredible skills on the keyboard and steel pans, as well as singing some of the songs that they have been learning. Thank you to all of the parents for attending and for joining in with the 'Animal Can Can' song.



Attendance

Dragonflies (This year): 93.7%

Dragonflies (This term): 95.08%

Dragonflies (This week): 94.04%

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

Ben, Edison, Eva, Eva-Mae, Evan, Freddie, Grayson, Harper, Hollie, Isla-Rae, Jayden, Jenson, Mya, Nylah, Ollie, Ronnie, Seb, Sophie and Tilly.

Well done for being in school on time every day.



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What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

This week in Dragonflies, we have continued to learn about the RSPB Big School Birdwatch. The children have found out about different species of birds, which might be seen during winter. They have painted pictures of birds and explored mixing the paints to make the necessary colours for their pictures. Using play doh, the children have had a go at making birds and next they are going to be making their own binoculars using recycled materials. Today, the children will be bringing home a 'Bird Spotter' Home Learning Challenge. Their task is to keep a record of the birds, which they spot at home in their gardens and then return their completed forms to school, by **Friday 4th February** so that we can submit our school totals to the RSPB.

We would also like to thank the parents who have sent us photos on Tapestry of the bird feeders, which we made in our Forest School session last week in their new homes.

On Thursday, Dragonflies had a special box delivered with clues about the next Traditional Tale for our topic 'Once upon a time...'. Inside the parcel, there was a red cape, a get well soon card, a picture of a wolf and a basket. The children were great detectives and enjoyed making predictions about the story and the characters.

In our number work this week, we have continued to develop our concept of number focusing on different ways to make the number 5. We are also trying hard to form our numbers correctly and have enjoyed using the clipboards and chalkboards in our outside area to record numbers too.

In phonics this week, the children have been introduced to 'ar', 'or' and the short and long vowel 'oo' phoneme. They have continued to practise their letter formation in handwriting, focusing on where each letter starts. On the whiteboard in our classroom this week, we have played a phonics game to spot the missing sounds in CVC (Consonant, Vowel, Consonant) words. In reading, we are continuing to focus on fluency when reading and comprehension of the text.

Please continue to read at least three times a week at home with your child and record in their reading diaries; we really do appreciate the time that you take to read with your child and comment in diaries.





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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 26th January – Flu Immunisations (Dragonflies)

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 (Please book through Parentpay)

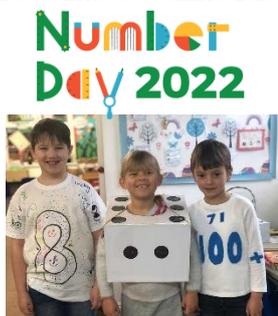
Thursday 7th April - Dragonflies Trip to Parkridge Centre

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...



Number Day 2022



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.



Chocolate Bingo
Friday 11th February
Eyes down looking!



Please join us for our family Chocolate Bingo Night to help raise school funds to support your children. Entry is £5 which includes your bingo tickets and table snacks.

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

Mrs Vicki Blundell (Safeguarding Lead Governor) office@ankervalley.org

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