



Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had an incredibly busy week in school this week, which has seen Dragonflies enjoy a visit to Tamworth Library, a bedtime story, and a walk around our local area to spot numbers. We are so proud of how beautifully the children have represented Anker Valley whilst being out in our community and are looking forwards to more visits in the coming weeks.

Thank you to those parents who completed our survey this week. You identified the following things that the school is doing well:

- ✓ *The range of fun learning activities and enrichment activities that the children have the opportunity to take part in e.g., Rock It Music, trips, etc.*
- ✓ *Newsletters, assemblies, parental involvement (including asking for feedback).*
- ✓ *Staff genuinely demonstrate that they care about all the children.*
- ✓ *Communication with parents.*

As always, we are looking for ways to improve and you have identified the following areas for improvement:

- *Communication is sometimes missing key information. We will, therefore, ensure that any communications sent to parents are clear and contain all the necessary information.*
- *Concerns regarding the ethos and virtues of the school being upheld, particularly with regards to expectations for behaviour. We have therefore, reminded staff and children about our virtues, and going forwards we will be creating a Parents Forum to provide the opportunity to contribute to our developing Behaviour and Relations Policy.*
- *Parents would like to better understand the learning in Early Years. We have therefore, planned for the Spring and Summer term Inspire Workshops, more opportunities for parents to be in classroom and parent information sessions.*

We really do appreciate your feedback and we would like to remind you that we are always at the end of the telephone and our door is always open. Have a wonderful weekend, best wishes Mrs Horlor.

What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

This week, we have been exploring our senses playing with pasta. We have been introducing new descriptive words such as stretchy, slimy, slippery, and sticky. The children also showed lots of interest and curiosity in exploring different Chinese food as part of our celebrations for Chinese New Year. We had fun making a dragon and dancing to Chinese music.

Today, the children all looked fantastic dressed up for Number Day and we had fun playing lots of different activities with numbers.



Congratulations!

Stars of the Week:

Evan and Luna
Harrison

Reader of the Week:

Hollie

Outstanding Citizen:

Freddie



Attendance

Dragonflies (This year): 93.93%

Dragonflies (This term): 95.41%

Dragonflies (This week): 98.15%

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

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

Well done for being in school on time every day.

Pancake Day

Dragonflies would love for you to join them at **1:30pm on Tuesday 1st March** for our first Anker Valley Pancake Race. The children will be competing against each other in races to win points for their house teams.

Afterwards there will be an opportunity to join the children in the classroom for more pancake themed learning, before enjoying a delicious pancake with them in the hall. As part of the afternoon will be in the classroom, we kindly ask that **only one parent and no siblings** attend due to the restricted space in the classroom.



Friday 4th February 2022

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'



What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

To start National Storytelling Week, Dragonflies walked to Tamworth Library. They listened to the librarian read a story about six chicks and a naughty fox. They were then able to pick books from the shelves to share with each other. Next week, Dragonflies are going to revisit the library, and each borrow a book to bring back to school to read. We hope to then be able to visit the library every three weeks to select new books to enjoy, which we hope will continue to foster the children's love of reading!

After school on Monday, the children all put their pyjamas on and went to the hall where they listened to stories read by Mrs Horlor and Mrs Free. The children had a hot chocolate and a biscuit before watching 'The Tiger who came to Tea' by Judith Kerr. On Tuesday, Mr Hand joined the children to share his favourite story 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' and he donated a copy of the text to the class reading corner. On Wednesday, Mrs Hamblin read the story 'Farmer Duck' to the children, and they enjoyed joining in with the animal sounds and repeated phrases. Miss Garrett and Miss Elliot have also shared stories with the children.

Tuesday this week marked Chinese New Year; the children watched a clip which explained to them how the lunar new year is celebrated. Mrs Free then talked to the children about 2022 being the year of the tiger. Afterwards, some of the children decided to make their own 'Happy New Year' cards and drew pictures of tigers too.

On Friday, we celebrated number day by coming to school dressed as a number. During the day, the children took part in number themed activities in the classroom before going on a walk around the local area to look for numbers! We would like to say a big thank you for the fabulous costumes- the children all looked great!

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and we have lots of lovely activities planned. Please could we ask if you could send in a photo of your child as a baby so that we can look at how they have grown and changed. Members of staff will be bringing in photos of themselves as a baby too; to see if the children can guess who is who. The photos can be emailed to the office email address office@ankervalley.org or the children can bring a copy of their picture into school, if possible, could we please ask that the photos are sent in to school on or before **Tuesday 9th February**.





Friday 4th February 2022

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 8th February – Visit to Library and St Editha's Church & Safer Internet Day

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

Thursday 17th February – Visit to Spital Chapel

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

Tuesday 1st March - Pancake Day Race (See the information on today's newsletter!)

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

Tuesday 8th March and Thursday 10th March – Parents Consultations (Further details to follow)

Friday 18th March - Holi Festival of Colour

Friday 25th March - Mother's Day Lunch (Please book through Parentpay)

Friday 25th March - **Bingo Night (tickets to go on sale very soon!) Date Changed!**

Thursday 7th April - Dragonflies Trip to Parkridge Centre

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

Chocolate Bingo Night – Change of Date

Unfortunately, we have made the decision to postpone our Chocolate Bingo Night until **Friday 25th March**.

This is to allow time for the Covid cases that we have experienced in school to settle, along with more time to promote and sell tickets.

Further information about how to book tickets for this will follow in the next few weeks.



Rainbow Readers

Congratulations to our Rainbow Readers this week!



Number Day

We would like to say a huge thank you for supporting our Number Day today – the children all looked fabulous!



**Happy 5th birthday
to Luna in Dragonflies!**



We hope you had a lovely day filled with celebrations. Best wishes, 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

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

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