



# Anker Valley Newsletter

*'Inspiring all to excellence'*

## Please help us to promote a love of reading at Anker Valley.

The number of books that children are exposed to by the age 6 is a positive predictor of their reading ability in future years. Reading a book and talking about it, has a positive impact on your child's ability to:

- understand words and sentences
- use a wide range of vocabulary
- develop listening comprehension skills.

Every week, your child brings home two books, their phonics matched reading book and a sharing book from the library. Our hope and wish is that the children read their reading book at least three times per week and this is recorded in their reading diary, along with a brief comment about how well they have read, any words they found difficult, etc. The shared library book is for you to read, a chance for you to make the story sound as exciting as you can by changing your voice. Every time you read, please take the opportunity to talk with your child as much as you can about what they are reading, in addition to reading the words on the page. It is a fantastic opportunity to:

- Introduce new and exciting language
- Encourage your child to use new vocabulary
- Make up sentences together
- Find different words to use that have the same meaning (synonyms)
- Describe things you see in the pictures.



## Congratulations!

**Stars of the Week:** Sophie and Ronnie (Dragonflies)  
Blake (Butterflies)

**Reader of the Week:** Jenson

**Outstanding Citizen:** Hope



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

Butterflies have been exploring their senses by making mint, green play dough. They extended their vocabulary by using words like stretchy, sticky, gooey and smelly while taking it in turns to mix it.

Our garden project has led us to planting some flowers, while the children patiently wait for the bulbs to grow. They chose which coloured pot and flower they wanted to use, they then filled in the gaps with more soil before hanging it on the fence. They have taken on the responsibility of remembering to water them. We also talked about the different parts of the flower and what they need to grow.

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we have been talking about our feelings and recognising our feelings. We have done through activities such as emotion stones, feelings board game, drawing pictures of ourselves and reading books.



## Attendance

**Dragonflies (This year): 94.21%**

**Dragonflies (This term): 96.1%**

**Dragonflies (This week): 99.07%**

**Congratulations to our children and parents in Dragonflies with**

**100% attendance this week:**

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

**Well done for being in school on time every day.**



## Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday afternoon, Dragonflies were introduced to some of the new technology that we are fortunate to have at Anker Valley. It was also a good opportunity to introduce E Safety to them, as it was also Internet Safety Day. The children listened to the story of Smartie the Penguin, which was also shared with parents so that they can help the children to understand the importance of online safety whilst at home. Further information can be found on the NSPCC Keeping Children Safe Online website: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe-online/).



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and this year's theme is 'Growing Together'. Over the week, Dragonflies have completed a range of activities including reading the story of 'The Ugly Duckling', comparing photos of themselves now and as babies, looking at photos of members of staff as babies to see if they could guess who's who, measuring items in the classroom and the outdoor environment and planting seeds. The children will all be bringing home an envelope with a piece of ribbon in; they need to keep their piece of ribbon safe at home, so that at the end of the academic year they can open their envelopes and compare the length of the ribbon with how tall they are to see how much they have grown.

On Thursday, Sam Lewis (Trust Well-Being Lead) led an assembly linked to the theme 'Growing Together' for the children in Dragonflies. She spoke to the children about how we grow both in mind and body and the power of the word 'yet'. After the assembly, the children thought about a new skill that they would like to learn or something that they would like to get better at and this was recorded on a picture of a conker, which some of the children chose to colour in. The 'Conker your Challenge' display will be displayed in Sam's room at Anker Valley and in the future Sam will ask the children to reflect to see if this is a skill that they have been able to complete.

Dragonflies have been finding out about the features of different places of worship during their RE lessons. On Tuesday, the children visited St Editha's Church where they were able to identify some of the features including the stained-glass windows, pews, font and pulpit. Next week, the children are looking forward to visiting Spital Chapel, which will enable them to make comparisons between the two buildings.

Before visiting St Editha's, the children visited the library and borrowed their first book. These books are now in our class reading area for the children to look at and share together. After half term, the children will visit the library again to borrow their next book and we hope that this will continue to foster the children's love of reading.

Tuesday was also Internet Safety Day. Dragonflies listened to the story of 'Smartie the Penguin', who reminded them about ways in which they can keep themselves safe when using devices such as a tablet both in school and at home. They listened carefully and were able to suggest for each of the different scenarios what they would do and who they would ask for help from. After this, the children had the chance to explore some of the new apps downloaded on to the school iPads and enjoyed drawing pictures with a partner.





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## Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Visit to Spital Chapel**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Half term**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** - Pancake Day Race

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** - World Book Day (Children to come dressed as their favourite book character and Book Swap – see further information below)

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Parents Consultations (Letter sent home 8.2.22)

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March** - Holi Festival of Colour

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March** - Mother's Day Lunch (Please book through Parentpay)

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March** - Bingo Night (tickets to go on sale very soon!)

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April** - Dragonflies Trip to Parkridge Centre

### Visit to St Editha's Church

Dragonflies had a wonderful time exploring St Editha's Church on Tuesday. Our guide gave us lots of information about different parts of the building and how it survived the Great Fire of Tamworth. We are looking forward to seeing how it compares to Spital Chapel next week.



### Pancake Day

Dragonflies would love for you to join them at **1:30pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



### Rainbow Readers

Congratulations to our Rainbow Readers this week!



### World Book Day – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March



To celebrate World Book Day this year, we would like to invite the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

We would also like to hold a '**Book Swap**' event, where the children can bring a book from home, which they have finished enjoying, so that they can swap it with one which another child has bought in.

The book can be either fiction or non-fiction, all we ask is that it is in a good condition, with no pages missing or drawn on.

### 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)

**Mrs Vicki Blundell** (Safeguarding Lead Governor) [office@ankervalley.org](mailto:office@ankervalley.org)

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