



Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'



TAPESTRY

Tapestry in Dragonflies

At Anker Valley, we use Tapestry in Reception to build a special record of each child's experiences, development and to create a learning journey during their first year at school. Using photos, videos, and diary entries from staff at school, along with you, our parents, and the children, we will weave together the story of how they are growing and developing. The Tapestry platform enables these memories to be kept as a permanent record of each child's unique journey. All information held on Tapestry is stored securely and can be downloaded and shared as required. You as parents, can view: your child's progress, activities provided for them (including home learning), and Wow moments experienced, as well as being able to upload your own comments and media.

The communication between staff and parents that Tapestry enables, helps to build a shared understanding of how every child can reach their full potential and we very much value the contributions that you make about the learning in school and at home.

Starting this week, we will be setting weekly home learning activities on Tapestry every Friday. This will be a small task to be completed over the week e.g., going for a walk to look for signs of Spring, looking for maths in real life contexts, etc. We would like all children to complete this task and upload a photograph or a video of them whilst they are doing it. This will help to contribute to their Learning Journey, as it will demonstrate how they are applying knowledge from school, at home, as well as providing background knowledge for future learning.

If you have any difficulty with accessing Tapestry or uploading entries, please see Mrs Free, who is more than happy to help. We look forward to seeing lots of wonderful learning taking place at home.

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week: Edith and Eva-Mae (Dragonflies)

Ethan (Butterflies)

Reader of the Week: Tilly

Outstanding Citizen: Edison



What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

This week in the Butterflies, we have been using our hands to feel different textures. We have been counting how many bugs we can find in the gloop, rolling and squashing play dough and mixing paint with our hands.

We have enjoyed thinking of words to describe the textures like gooey, sticky, gloopy, messy, cold, and wet. We have had lots of fun getting very



Attendance

Dragonflies (This year): 94.27%

Dragonflies (This term): 96%

Dragonflies (This week): 95.43%

Congratulations to our children and parents in Dragonflies with

100% attendance this week:

Isla, Daniel, Freddie, Luna, Ben,

Tilly, Ronnie, Jenson, Eva-Mae,

Evan, Seb, Hope, Edith, Edison,

Mya, Jayden, Eva, Sophie and

Ollie.

Well done for being in school on time every day.

Visits to Tamworth Library

Dragonflies have thoroughly enjoyed their visits to Tamworth Library this half term and in order to continue to foster a love of reading, we are planning to return to the library to exchange our books on the following dates next half term:

Friday 4th March at 2:30pm, Tuesday 15th March and Tuesday 5th April.

The children will travel to and from the library on the school minibus.





Friday 18th February 2022

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What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

This week, Dragonflies, have showed great imagination and creativity whilst recreating 'real life' experiences through their play. Together they built a McDonald's drive through window, using the large foam bricks. They created signs and menus for the customers to pick from using their phonics knowledge. Each customer was greeted in a very polite manner and their orders were recorded on a clipboard, before being prepared in the role play kitchen. It was a lovely a child led learning experience, which demonstrated many of the characteristics of the Early Years Curriculum. Make sure you have a look at our Facebook page to see the photos.

The children have also been learning about Valentine's Day. To further develop their fine motor skills, the children had a go at making some 'love bugs' using red playdough, heart sequins, googly eyes, pipe cleaners and pom poms. In the maths area, the children matched up heart number puzzle pieces using their subitising skills and practised their number bonds for numbers within 10. Some of the Dragonflies had a go at recording this as a number sentence, for example, $2 + 3 = 5$. All the children made a Valentine's card to take home for their family.

In phonics, the children have been showing Mrs Free which of the Phase 3 sounds and tricky words they have remembered. Please help your child to continue to practise their phonic sound cards and the tricky word cards at home over the half term holiday. We have also been introducing the children to the letter names outside of their phonics lessons. When teaching letters names, we say 'The name is ... and the sound is ...', it would be beneficial if you could use this phrasing when talking to the children about the difference between letter names and phonemes (sounds) at home too.

On Thursday afternoon, the children enjoyed visiting Spital Chapel. They were able to use their knowledge from RE lessons to identify some of the features and similarities and differences between the building and St Editha's. The children discovered that Spital Chapel is as old as St Editha's Church and that it has been used as a hospital and a stable during the past.

Mrs Free, Miss Garrett and Mrs Horlor would like to wish you all a wonderful half term break.





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Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 1st March 1:30pm - Pancake Day Race

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

Tuesday 8th March and Thursday 10th March – Parents Consultations

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!)

Thursday 7th April - Dragonflies Trip to Parkridge Centre

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

Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April – Easter Holidays

Monday 25th April – INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

Dragonflies Visit Spital Chapel

Dragonflies would like to say thank you to Reverend Dyson for allowing us to visit Spital Chapel on Thursday. We are looking forward to her visiting Anker Valley soon.



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.



Rainbow Readers

Congratulations to our Rainbow Readers this week!



World Book Day – Thursday 3rd 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

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.