



Friday 11th March 2022

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents,

This week I have been incredibly proud of our family at Anker Valley, who have pulled together in Miss Garrett's absence to ensure the continued smooth running of Dragonflies. They have increased hours, taken on different roles and have continued to smile – thank you. Miss Garrett has had her surgery and is now recovering at home; we would like to wish her all the best for a speedy recovery. We are all missing her very much.

Parents' evenings this week were a real success, and it was lovely to see so many parents coming into school to celebrate the progress the children have made. We were pleased once again to be able offer both in person and on-screen meetings, although I know there were a couple of technical difficulties, so thank you for your patience and flexibility with this. Mrs Jones, our Chair of Governors, would also like me to express her thanks for taking the time to speak to her about life at Anker Valley, at our consultations on Tuesday evening.

Breaking news! We have a new member of the Dragonflies class, who will hopefully be joining us next week...a Giant African Land snail! They are still very tiny at the moment and currently have no name, so any suggestions would be greatly received! Once they are a little bigger, the children in Dragonflies will be able to take it home over the weekend along with our detailed snail care plan, to share with their families.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Best wishes Mrs Horlor.

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week: Luna and Eva (Dragonflies)
Matilda (Butterflies)
Reader of the Week: Mya
Outstanding Citizen: Jayden



What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

The butterflies have enjoyed a bit of sunshine this week, spending lots of time outdoors. They have built obstacle courses for their friends, whilst taking turns and waiting patiently for each other to finish. The bikes have been travelling fast, as the children have been practicing to balance by lifting their feet up. We've also had lovely sand pies made in the mud kitchen.

The children have used the bright sunshine as a stimulus to investigate mixing colours. They also traced and coloured shapes using the building with the blocks.



Attendance

Dragonflies (This year): 94.45%
Dragonflies (This term): 96.06%
Dragonflies (This week): 95.39%

Congratulations to our children and parents in Dragonflies with

100% attendance this week:

Isla, Grayson, Daniel, Luna,
Freddie, Benjamin, Ronnie, Jenson,
Eva-Mae, Hollie, Hope, Edith,
Michael, Edison, Harper, Mya, Seb,
Jayden, Nylah, Eva, Sophie, Ollie

Well done for being in school on time every day.

Visits to Tamworth Library

We are planning to return to the library to exchange our books on the following dates this half term:

Tuesday 15th March and Tuesday 5th April.



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



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What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

We are continuing with our theme of 'Once upon a time...' this half term, which looks at a range of different Traditional Tales. Dragonflies have really enjoyed reading the story of The Three Little Pigs this week. They have been writing letters as if they were the Big Bad Wolf, apologising to the Pigs for blowing down their houses, speech bubbles for what the characters in the story might say and some of the children have written their own versions of the story in the continuous provision, including some lovely illustrations too.

In the construction area, the children have been designing a dream home for the pigs to live in and have been building houses for them, which have had lots of swimming pools added to the gardens! In the creative area, the children have used paper plates to make their own pigs, self-resourcing the collage materials and mixing paints to get the right colours.

The children showed a very mature approach to talking about the different emotions in the story of the Three Little Pigs and were able to identify and discuss how the Big Bad Wolf might be feeling at different points of the story too.

As the weather is starting to improve, the children have really enjoyed the opportunity to explore the outside area this week. They have used the trim trail, bikes and scooters and played in their own stick house where they role played the story together taking on the roles of the pigs and wolf.

During our 'Rock It' music session this week, the children listened to a range of calming music and closed their eyes thinking about how the music made them feel. They also listened to 'Pachelbel - Canon in D', and then started to learn how to play a version of this song on the keyboards. As they are making great progress with their music learning, Dragonflies are now learning how to position their hands and fingers on each key to make the movement between the different notes smoother. They have also been learning to sing and sign in Makaton to the song 'Don't Worry 'bout a thing'.

Please remember to send your child's reading book and diary to school every day and to read with your child at least three times a week at home to support their learning.



Happy 5th Birthday Sophie and Hope

We hope that you had a wonderful birthday!

From

Your Anker Valley Family





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Dates for your Diary

Friday 18th March - Holi Festival of Colour (please see information below)

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

Friday 25th March - Bingo Night (tickets to go on sale now!)

Wednesday 6th April – Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday 7th April - Dragonflies Trip to Parkridge Centre

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

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

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

Thursday 5th May – Polling Day (School will be open as normal – children to enter and leave through main office)

Monday 17th – Friday 21st May – Walk to School Week



March for Ukraine Donations

At Anker Valley, we would like to be able to support those in need in the Ukraine as part of the March for Ukraine Campaign. If you can make donations of any of the following items, we would be happy to arrange for their delivery to one of the collection sites:

- Nappies and baby wipes
- Children's colouring books and crayons
- First aid items (bandages, plasters, antiseptic wipes)
- Protein bars, sterilising tablets, dry foods (pasta, rice, tea, biscuits)
- Vests, socks, pants
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, roll on deodorants (not aerosols)

Donations can be made to the school office; we thank you in advance for your support.

Bingo Night – 25th March at 6:00pm

We are excited to be holding a Chocolate Bingo Night to raise some extra funds for our school and the children.

The Royal Mail will be match funding all proceeds, which we are so grateful for. **Tickets are now available to purchase from the school office. They are £5 per person, which includes the bingo tickets and refreshments. We hope to see you all there!**



Rainbow Readers

Congratulations to our Rainbow Readers this week!



Holi Festival of Colour – 18th March

Holi is a two-day Hindu festival that originated in India. On the first day, people will gather around a bonfire and celebrate good triumphing over evil, but it's the second day that most people will recognise - that's when perfumed powder called gulal is thrown at everyone, with each colour carrying a different meaning e.g., red symbolises love.

On Friday 18th March, Dragonflies will be learning about Holi; we would therefore like to invite them to come in to school wearing their brightest coloured clothes.

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.