



Friday 24th September 2021

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'



Dear Parents,
 First of all I would like to begin by welcoming Ronnie to Dragonflies. I hope that he has had a fantastic first week; Welcome to the Anker Valley family.
 You may remember me mentioning during our Meet and Greet that I would like our staff, parents and children to all be involved in the choosing of our house names. I have compiled a list of possibilities, based on local and national significant figures, local rivers and roads, flowers, etc. You will receive an email with all of the possible names on and we would love it if you could share these with your child and decide on your favourite. Once you have chosen, could you return your preference via email to office@ankervalley.org by no later than Thursday 30th September. I look forward to sharing the winning names with you in next week's newsletter.

Best wishes for the weekend ahead, Mrs Horlor.

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week:

Hope
Harper

Reader of the Week:

Edith

Outstanding Citizen:

Ronnie



What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

The Butterflies have been investigating 'what rolls' by choosing different toys to roll down a ramp. A lot of fun was had chasing the toys as they rolled away. This encouraged the children to take turns and communicate with each other using words like 'fast' and 'slow'.

We are building a display of 'Our Family' using the children's family photos. If you wish for your child's family photo to be displayed, please either send one in with the children or email it to the child's keyworker.



What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

In maths, Dragonflies have been learning about the word 'match' and have been helping Mrs Free and Miss Garrett to sort items which match into groups. Some of our Dragonflies have created Numicon cities and Numicon animals, matching the correct Numicon pieces to the pictures.

On our writing table we have been practicing how to write the letters s, a, t and p, linked to our phonics learning. In phonics, this week we have been introduced to the sounds i, n, m and d. Mrs Free and Miss Garrett have been amazed by some of our Dragonflies, who have started to blend letters together to read words such as man, sat, sad and dip.

Dragonflies have been learning about how to cross the road safely and thinking about people who can help us to do this. All of our Dragonflies have been able to take home a reflector key ring and an activity book to share with the grown-ups at home.

We have also been thinking about our bodies and the scientific names for the parts of our skeletons linked to the book 'Funnybones'. On Thursday, we went for a walk around the school using our senses to think about what we could see, hear and smell.

We have been very busy this week!

Attendance

Dragonflies (This week): 91.38% (0 lates)

Dragonflies (This term): 95.63%

We have had lots of colds this week in school which has really affected our attendance. Let's hope next week sees an improvement.

Every Day Counts!



Many thanks to those who made donations of cakes for our Macmillan Coffee Morning and to those who joined us today.

It was lovely to welcome not only our parents and carers, but also members of our local community.

You helped to raise an incredible £ 90!



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Trust Coronavirus Update

As incidents of positive Covid cases emerge in our academies, we recognise the concerns that parents and carers have and wish to reassure you that we are working in line with the Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance issued by the Department for Education in August. This marked a significant change to the measures that were in place previously and a move towards reducing the disruption to children's education.

Each Academy continues to have a Risk Assessment that is regularly reviewed and updated taking into account their circumstances and advice from the Staffordshire Local Outbreak Control Team. Each academy has an Outbreak Management Plan which details the actions taken should there be an increase in positive Covid-19 cases.

Schools are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing; this is undertaken by NHS Test and Trace. Our academies are not obliged to inform parents or carers when positive Covid cases arise within a class. Children who are identified as a close contact are expected to continue to attend school as normal. Only those with symptoms should not attend; a confirmatory PCR test should then be taken and the child self-isolate.

Additional actions are taken where the number of positive cases increases to five (or 10%, whichever threshold is reached first), within a ten-day period where there has been close contact between pupils or staff. Further advice is then taken from the Staffordshire Local Outbreak Control Team. This is the point at which the academy will inform parents and carers of an outbreak. Additional control measures, advised by the Staffordshire Local Outbreak Control Team and detailed in the Outbreak Management Plan, will then be implemented to break the chains of transmission.

Please be reassured that control measures including ensuring good hygiene for everyone, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 are in place in each academy. Measures are stepped up in response to increased cases.

Please refer to your respective Academy website for details of the current Risk Assessment and Outbreak Management Plan. If you have any concerns, please contact the Headteacher or Head of School. Your patience and understanding at what remains a very difficult time for everyone where all wish to do their very best for the children who attend our academies, is greatly appreciated.

Fierté Multi-Academy Trust Executive Team



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Dates for your Diary

1st October – 9:00am Grandparents Family Assembly

8th October – 9:15am – Harvest Festival in the school Hall (Parents welcome)

8th October – Mental Health Day – Children to wear something yellow #helloyellow

11th October – Inset Day (School closed to pupils)

12th November – Children in Need Day – Children to wear something spotty.

3rd December – 9:15am – Christingle Family Assembly

16th December – 9:15am – Reception Nativity and Carols

10th December – 3:30pm – 5:00pm – Christmas Fayre

17th December – Christmas Jumper Day

20th December – Christmas Holidays Start

4th January – Inset Day (School closed to pupils)

5th January – Spring Term Starts

**October Half Term Holiday Club -
OPOJ,**

Held at Dosthill Primary Academy.
For further information and registration
packs, please contact
LWhetton@opoj.fierte.org



Individual School Photographs

On **Monday 4th October**, Tempest will be in school to take individual photographs of all of the children. Further information will be sent out closer to the date with regards to arrangements and how to place orders.

Harvest Festival



On **Friday 8th October** we will be having our Harvest Celebration in school and we would love it if our parents and carers could join us.

The children in Butterflies and Dragonflies have been learning songs and finding out about why we celebrate Harvest and will be sharing some of their work as part of the assembly.

We would love to make a donation to the local food bank so as part of our Harvest Celebrations, we are asking for donations of: Dried goods and / or tins e.g. Pasta, Cereal, Rice, Tinned soup, Tinned meat or Fish, etc.



Sunday 3rd October is National Grandparents Day, therefore on **Friday 1st October** we would like to invite our wonderful Grandparents to join us in Family Assembly and then stay for tea, coffee and cake afterwards.

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

Mr Toby Swift (Safeguarding Lead Governor) office@ankervalley.org

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