



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 8th September 2023

Welcome Back!

I do hope that you all had a wonderful summer break. It has been lovely to see all of our children return this week and a very special welcome to our new Dragonflies, who have settled into life at Anker Valley beautifully. Welcome also to our new members of staff: Mrs Davies and Miss Murrell in Dragonflies and Miss Stacey in Herons – we are delighted to have you join our family.

I would like to begin by expressing my immense gratitude to those parents who looked after our animals over the summer holidays – it was very much appreciated and I hope you enjoyed the abundance of eggs laid by the chickens! Thank you also to those who joined us for our first Family Assembly today and who stayed for our Macmillan Coffee morning. Just a reminder that our doors are always open every Friday at 9:00am for assembly and you are more than welcome to join us and stay for a cup of tea / coffee afterwards. Please also take a moment to look at the dates section, as we have lots of events coming up! Wishing you a wonderfully sunny weekend. Kindest regards, Mrs Horlor.

Year 1 Phonics Parents Workshop

Mrs Free will be running a Phonics Information session for our Year 1 Parents in the hall on Friday 15th September at 9:15am (straight after Family Assembly). The meeting will share information about the Phonics Screening Check and how you can support at home. We hope you can join us.

Birthday Sweets and Treats

This year we would like to strive towards achieving healthy school status. We have already ticked lots of boxes towards this thanks to Mrs Smith and Mrs Chyla doing an amazing job at providing healthy dinners and snacks, as well as having our healthy lunchbox policy in place. In addition to this, we have seen an increase in the number of allergies within school, therefore we will unfortunately no longer be able to distribute sweets and cakes for birthdays in order to keep our children and staff safe.

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday with the rest of their class, we kindly ask that as an alternative to a sweet treat, you support our love of reading by contributing a book to the library. In return, the book will have a celebratory birthday sticker inside to commemorate your child's special day.

Thank you for your support with this.

Eggs For Sale!

Our chickens are now laying approximately six eggs every day, including some with double yolks!

Boxes of six free range eggs will be available every day from the office at £1 per box. All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of our animals.

All boxes will be sold first come first served.

Attendance

Dragonflies (This week): 93.37%

Herons (This week): 99.07%

Kestrels (This week): 100.00%

Congratulations to our children in Kestrels for winning our weekly attendance award!

Thank you to all parents who have supported their child to achieve 100% attendance this week.

Congratulations!

Stars of the week:

Georgia and Ethan (*Dragonflies*)

Elsie and Harry (*Herons*)

Evelyn and Freddie (*Kestrels*)

Citizens of the week:

Matilda (*Dragonflies*)

Violet (*Herons*) Ellie-Mae (*Kestrels*)



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What we have been learning this week in Dragonflies...

Wow! What a fantastic first week we have had at Anker Valley. The children have been absolutely amazing and we are super proud of them. This week has been all about getting to know each other. We have all made friends and are enjoying being in our class 'Dragonflies'.

This week we have been thinking about ourselves and our families. We have used different media to produce pictures of ourselves and our families. We really enjoyed using the loose parts to make our faces.

Happy 5th Birthday to Jessica, we hope you have a lovely day! From your Anker Valley Family.



What we have been learning this week in Herons...

Herons have settled beautifully into their new classroom and have shown great determination in everything they have done this week!

In Maths, the children have sorted buttons and are starting to count a set of objects within 10. In English, the children have demonstrated their understanding of writing sentences and have started to look at our new story 'Dogger'. The children have also enjoyed playing in the classroom this week and have shown curiosity when exploring all of the new areas in the continuous provision.

Herons are looking forward to starting their new topics next week and continuing on from a fantastic start of being in Year 1!



What we have been learning this week in Kestrels...

The children in Kestrels are settling in well to being the first Year 2 class upstairs at Anker Valley. This week, they have shared some of their adventures from the summer holidays, listened to a story about an unbelievable summer and practised using their mental maths skills to answer a range of addition and subtraction calculations. We have visited the school library, and the children were very excited to see that over the summer we had a delivery of lots of lovely new books to share together. We have found out some interesting facts about Kestrels. We then sketched and painted one using watercolours for display. Next week, we will start our first unit 'Towns, Villages and Cities' in the lead up to our visit to London on Thursday 21st September.

Happy 7th Birthday to Ronnie, we hope you have a lovely day! From your Anker Valley Family.



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Dates for your Diary

Friday 15th September – 9:15am Year 1 Phonics Information Workshop for Parents (*Hall straight after Family Assembly*)

Tuesday 19th September – Year 1 Trip to Sudbury Hall

Thursday 21st September – Year 2 Trip to London

Friday 22nd September – Jean for Genes Day (Wear denim jeans / skirts and normal uniform on top £1)

Friday 22nd September – 9:15am Year 2 Reading Workshop for Parents (*Hall straight after Family Assembly*)

Monday 2nd October – Tempest Photography in to take individual photographs

Wednesday 4th October – Year 1 and 2 Star Gazing and Astronomy Workshop (6:00pm more details to follow).

Friday 13th October – Inset Day (School Closed to pupils)

Friday 20th October – Harvest Festival (9:00am – No Family Assembly today)

A Message from Mrs Hamblin on Behalf of the Fierte Multi Academy Trust

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back after the summer break. I hope that you managed to rest and recuperate with your family and loved ones. If you are a new parent of a child or children joining our Fierté Family, we welcome you and hope that you all have settled in well this first week of the academic year.

I wanted to share with you some Trust news:

The Trust and all academies have a new website which is now live. An intense amount of toil, behind the scenes, has enabled this significant piece of work to be completed in a very short space of time. We are very proud of the new site and the way that it showcases our organisation. Many thanks to all those involved. We hope as parents that you find the website very accessible and parent friendly.

Dosthill Primary's new build is complete. The sign off has been given and our children and staff can now relish being able to work and learn in a beautiful new environment. It was worth the wait!

Mr. Gareth Hancox, an experienced leader in our Trust, will be joining the Anker Moor Primary Academy team as their headteacher for the next academic year. We are delighted to welcome him to this role and wish him all the very best for the upcoming term.

Our Trust Parent Forum and all Local Governing Boards are looking for committed and supportive parents to join. We would love to hear from you if you have an interest in supporting your school community further. Please contact: ceo@fierte.org

As a Trust, we have identified that some elements of communication are impacting significantly on our staff and their work-life balance. Some issues include emails to staff late at night, over weekends or during school holidays which often have an unrealistic expectation for response times. A new Parent Communication and Email protocol, endorsed by the Trust Board, has been created. Please familiarise yourself with the content as this will be the new protocol for parents when communicating, commencing Friday 8th September 2023 and therefore, the expectation is that this is adhered to by all.

I am delighted to share that our Trust has been awarded a brand-new Free School Presumption primary school at Amington in Tamworth. The school is expected to open to pupils in September 2024, with a team already underway securing the steps required for this to open successfully. This school, our tenth, will be named Garden Village Primary Academy.

I will continue to update you each term on any new initiatives or Trust wide information.

Wishing you a positive and successful start to the new academic year and beyond!

Maria Hamblin (CEO)

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 Julia Jones (Safeguarding Lead Governor) office@ankervalley.org

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



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