



Meet Our Pupil Governors



We are very excited to be Pupil Governors at Anker Valley. We are looking forward to sharing what our friends in class would like to improve at school when we go to our meetings with Mrs Free. We are also looking forward to wearing our special Pupil Governor badges so that we can be easily spotted around school!

Our Local Governing Body

Julia Jones Chair of Governors

Harry Ashbolt Vice Chair (Parent Governor)

Simon Key Parent Governor

Andrea Free Staff Governor

A Message from Harry Ashbolt Parent Governor:

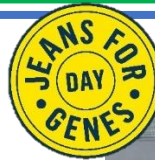
'It was great to be back at the school this morning after the summer holidays and to see lots of familiar faces, along with the new reception class at today's assembly. All the children looked very smart in their school uniforms and sat very nicely during the assembly - Dragonflies seem to be settling in really well. The year one phonics session that Mrs Free led was very beneficial to support parents understanding of phonics. Thank you to Mrs Free for holding the session. Harry'

Jeans for Genes

On Friday 22nd September, we invite the children to wear denim jeans, leggings, shorts or skirt to celebrate Jeans for Genes in exchange for a donation to the Jeans for Genes charity. Normal school uniform must be worn on top (shirt, tie, jumper or cardigan). By asking everyone to wear jeans our school could help fund projects that provide nursing care, equipment, activity weekends, online support and counselling. Thank you in advance for your support.

As we are a cashless school you will be able to make donations directly to Jeans for Genes using the below link:

[Just Giving Link](#)



Attendance

School attendance this year:

School attendance this term:

School attendance this week: **94.51%**

Dragonflies (this week): **92.98%**

Hérons (this week): **94.41%**

Kestrels (this week): **95.73%**

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:

Albie and Ollie (*Dragonflies*)

Taliyah and Noah (*Hérons*)

Jayden and Olivia (*Kestrels*)

Citizens of the week:

Blake (*Dragonflies*) Henry (*Hérons*) Sophie (*Kestrels*)





Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 15th September 2023

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

This week the Dragonflies have enjoyed reading the story 'The Colour Monster'. The children have been exploring their own emotions and designing their own Colour Monster. This week we started phonics, I have been so impressed with how focused the children have been during phonics. We have learnt the phonemes s,a,t,p, the children have been practising recognising them and writing them. We also had our first Forest School session and PE session this week. The children really enjoyed meeting all of the school animals and discussing how to look after them.



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

Herons have had a super second week in Year 1! All children are working hard and settling into their new routines. In English, the children have learnt all about adjectives! They have been able to write a small description for Dogger using adjectives in each sentence they have written. In Maths, the children have been able to continue to count 10 and are becoming more confident at subitising an amount. This week, the children have started their new topics in each lesson. It has been very busy but the children have been very enthusiastic towards their learning. They have looked at moving toys, naming the four seasons and have learnt about point balances in Gymnastics. We are very much looking forward to our trip to Sudbury Hall next week and cannot wait to share our experiences with you all!



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

It's been a busy second week in Kestrels! We have started our first unit 'Villages, Towns and Cities', and in Geography we used the atlases to help us to identify the four countries of the UK and their capital cities. In RE, the children brought in photos of their gardens at home, and we discussed how we could look after and show care to our gardens and the natural world. During PE we talked about the importance of warming up and cooling down before and after exercise and started our new dance unit. Our English work has linked to the visit we have next week to London. The children worked in table groups to identify clues taken from our new text 'Paddington at the Palace', we have read the story together and we will be writing our own story, a diary entry and creating an information leaflet over the next six weeks. In our daily story time, we have started to read A Bear called Paddington. We are revisiting our place value knowledge in maths and have been counting in groups of tens and identifying tens and ones in numbers up to 100. Kestrels also had their first Forest School session and Rock It Music lesson this week. Please keep an eye on Tapestry for some more photos of our learning this week.



'Inspiring all to excellence'





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Friday 15th September 2023

Dates for your Diary

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 & 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)

Uniform Expectations

Just a little reminder that children should be wearing shirts or blouses to school and not polo shirts, ties should also be worn every day (unless wearing a summer dress). If your child has had their ears pierced, they should only be wearing a simple stud which **must** be removed for PE. If your child is unable to take out their own earrings, can you please remove them before school. No other items of jewellery e.g., necklaces or bracelets should be worn.

If you have any items of uniform that your child has outgrown and would like to donate it to our used uniform shop, please drop it off to Miss Elliott in the office.

Local Elections – Thursday 19th October

As you may be aware local elections are taking place in Tamworth on Thursday 19th October. As in previous years Anker Valley will be used as a polling site, however we have on this occasion made adaptations that will enable us to keep the school open in order to avoid parents having to make alternative childcare arrangements. Members of the public will have no access to the main school building, as doors to the hall will be locked to ensure the children are safeguarded. On this day, there will be no access to the school hall, therefore, wrap around will be using alternative classrooms and will be open as normal. School dinners will be served in classrooms and will be a picnic style lunch with chips. We will ask children in class for their sandwich choices – please contact Miss Elliott if you would prefer to choose your child's lunch. Art club will run as normal on this day.

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.

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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