



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 22nd September 2023

Year 2 Reading Workshop and Library Visit

Thank you to our Year 2 parents who joined us this morning for our Reading workshop, we hope that you found the information shared useful for supporting your child at home and developing a love of reading. The children really enjoyed showing you some of our new library books and reading with you too! All the information shared will be sent home and put on our website too.

Just to remind parents, that following surveys and discussions, **you told us** that for parents who work it can be challenging to try and fit in the homework that we have been setting across a term. We know that this has been an issue for many, who have shared that they just cannot fit everything in. **We have therefore agreed:** We will not set the termly overviews of homework or weekly homework tasks that we have in the past (apart from in Year 1 to support phonics and in Year 6). From Year Reception therefore, our expectation will focus on a daily read with parents, carers or even an older sibling. This to be recorded in Reading Records that go home from school.

There is a help sheet for you at the front of the Reading Record, so that you can be sure that you are following what we are following in the teaching of reading at home.



Jeans for Genes

Thank you to all our parents who made donations to Jeans for Genes.

Anker Valley raised an amazing £120 for the charity, but above all you have demonstrated our values of care and kindness towards others.

Thank you for your generosity.



Attendance

School attendance this year: 96.30%

School attendance this term: 96.30%

School attendance this week: 96.98%

Dragonflies (this week): 93.8%

Hérons (this week): 98.1%

Kestrels (this week): 99.1%

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:

Rory and Nevaeh (*Dragonflies*)

Jake and Jayden (*Hérons*)

Jayden, Freddie and Evan (*Kestrels*)



Readers of the week:

Isobel (*Hérons*)

(*Kestrels*)

Citizens of the week:

Eva (*Dragonflies*)

Hallie (*Hérons*)

Darcie-Loren

(*Kestrels*)



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

What a busy week we have had in Reception. The children have really enjoyed reading the story 'Owl Babies' and finding out lots of facts about owls, including them being nocturnal.

It has also been our turn to look after the animals, the children have loved this job. They have taken it in turns to feed them and could not believe how many eggs they have collected (14 in total so far). The children are really looking forward to cleaning out the animals on Friday...I'm not sure myself and Miss Murrell are!

I am super impressed with how hard everyone is working in phonics; we are already blending words to read them and writing each grapheme. We have had some creative mathematicians this week, who made their own ramps to roll their cars down and then used the cubes to measure to see whose car had travelled the furthest (Archie was the winner with 29).

Next week, we will be using the text Super Worm to drive our learning, I can't wait to see what we achieve.



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

On Tuesday, Herons went on their very first trip to Sudbury Hall! All children were eager and excited in the morning, especially when they saw the coach arrive.

The children spent the day looking at lots of different toys which were both old and new. The children became 'toy detectives' as they looked at the material, colour and quality of each toy to decide how old the toy was. Herons really enjoyed playing with the different toys around the museum and especially enjoyed the three bedrooms that were up on the ceiling.

All of the staff that went with Herons were impressed with their manners and enthusiasm. Well done, Herons!



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Kestrel's and Heron's Trip to London

'I want to thank you for the London trip yesterday, as most parents, I was a little apprehensive, however I am so glad that we allowed her to go. She was full of absolute excitement after returning, telling us all about it, a day full of memories.'



Yesterday the children in Year 2 arrived at school very early! We headed to Tamworth Train Station and caught the train to London Euston. Then we headed to the London Eye, the children were amazed by all of the sights that they could see and enjoyed spotting Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, The Shard and a police boat on the Thames! After our lunch, we walked through Westminster to Buckingham Palace. Unfortunately, King Charles was not in, but we were able to have a fabulous, guided tour of the palace and saw the items, which were used during the Coronation Ceremony. The children were fantastic and were in awe of all the things that they saw. We are so proud of both the Year 2 children and Year 1 children who attended the visit and a big thank you to all the grown-ups who helped to make the trip possible!

'I would like to thank all the staff and everyone who was involved in the school trip to London, it was really well thought out and planned amazingly, and handled the train station really well. As a parent I was worried as it's a big trip away from home, but you handled it so well and can't thank you enough. I am proud for my daughter to be going to this school and the amazing opportunities that they are given. She has not stopped talking about what an amazing day she has had, so thank you all so much.'



'I cannot express how thankful, and appreciative we are of the school, staff, and opportunities given to the children. You have yet again exceeded my expectations, we are so proud to be a part of the Anker Valley family. My child came home filled with happiness and excitement, eager to tell us all about her day and what amazing things she has seen and done. It has been such a wonderful, successful trip.'





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Dates for your Diary

Friday 29th September – SEND Coffee Morning (*straight after 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)

Saturday 21st October – Pumpkin Festival (5:00pm – 7:00pm more details to follow)

Monday 23rd October – Thursday 26th October – Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday 24th October and Thursday 26th October – Parent Consultations

Harvest Festival Donations

On Friday 20th October, we will be holding our Harvest celebrations at 9:00am in the hall (there will be no family assembly on this day). We warmly welcome members of our Anker Valley families to attend this event and as usual there will be tea and coffee available afterwards.

As in previous years, we will be collecting food for the Tamworth Food Bank and therefore ask in the weeks leading up to Harvest for donations of cereals, tins, pasta, rice, squash, tea, coffee, etc. Children can bring these into the classroom, or they can be dropped at the main office. Thank you in advance for your support.

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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