



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 29th September 2023

A message from Mrs. Jones, Chair of Governors:

'It was a real privilege for me to go on the Y1/2 trip to London. I did feel it was a big responsibility, but I needn't have worried - every step had been meticulously planned. Most importantly, your children's behaviour was exemplary. The look of awe and wonder on their faces when they first glimpsed the London Eye and the excitement of every sight they saw will live long in my memory as well as your children's, for sure. A special thank you to Eva-mae and all the Kestrels for the lovely thank you letter I received when I came in to read to the children this week - much appreciated.

Best wishes,

Julia Jones - Chair of Governors

School Travel Advisor

You may have spotted around school this week, Debbie Dollin who has been assigned to Anker Valley as our travel adviser. She will be working with the school over the next 2-3 years, supporting with initiatives to ensure that our children arrive at school safely. This morning, Debbie was carrying out a traffic and parking audit which will be used to identify ways which we can help keep our families safe – we look forward to sharing these with you in the coming months. Can I please take this opportunity to remind parents that single yellow lines must not be parked on during the set times and residents driveways must not be blocked. Many thanks.

Tempest Photography – Monday 2nd October

Tempest Photography are coming into school on Monday to take individual and sibling photos. Please ensure that children come to school wearing correct school uniform. Sibling photos for those children that don't attend Anker Valley are starting from 8:00am, please arrive by this time if you would like your children to be photographed together.

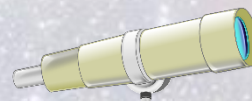
Star Gazing and Astronomy Workshop

To celebrate World Space Week, we are excited to let you know that we have invited a special guest in to school to hold a star gazing and astronomy workshop for parents and children for Year 1 and Year 2, on Wednesday 4th October from 6:00pm.

Alan Ledbury will be teaching you all about astronomy and is even bringing in a telescope so that the children can learn to star gaze.

We will be providing hot chocolate and a biscuit.

£1 per child to be paid on Parent Pay.



Attendance

School attendance this year: 95.98%

School attendance this term: 95.98%

School attendance this week: 95.10%

Dragonflies (this week): 96:00%

Hérons (this week): 97.39%

Kestrels (this week): 92.07%

Congratulations to our children in Herons 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:

Louisa and Chance (*Dragonflies*)

Terae and Theo H (*Hérons*)

Sophie and Ronnie (*Kestrels*)

Readers of the week:

Archie (*Dragonflies*)

Matilda (*Hérons*)

Nylah (*Kestrels*)

Citizens of the week:

Jamie (*Dragonflies*)

Leo, Alfie and Isobel (*Hérons*)

Luna (*Kestrels*)



'Inspiring all to excellence'





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

We have had a great week in Dragonflies; the children have loved the text SuperWorm. They have had lots of fun designing their own super dens using the magnetic blocks. I was really impressed with the perseverance that they demonstrated whilst cutting out their own masks and then decorating them to become real superheroes. The sensory mud was a highlight as the children really enjoyed getting messy in the mud looking for worms.



(I'm not so sure Miss Murrell enjoyed cleaning the tuff tray afterwards!) In Forest School this week the children really enjoyed planting bulbs, they cannot wait to watch them grow.



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

What a lovely week in Herons! This week in Maths, the children have been amazing and have even impressed Mr Hand with their amazing Maths learning in Year 1, so far. This week, the children have been practicing counting forwards and backwards, finding missing numbers and finding 1 more than a given number. In English, the children have enjoyed writing a short description for their favourite cuddly toy! The children have been impressing me with their understanding of adjectives and how they have used them in their



sentences. In our wider curriculum, the children have enjoyed learning about axels and wheels, looking at each other's photos from a special event or celebration and have enjoyed learning more about the four seasons. All of Herons are really looking forward to making their own axel with two wheels and using the saws to cut them down to size.



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

It has been another busy week in Kestrels and there has been some fantastic learning happening in all subject areas! In our whole class reading lessons, we have been reading the story 'Katie in London', we have used choral, and echo reading and discussed the new vocabulary. On Wednesday, we looked at strategies for understanding the meaning of new words including using a dictionary to find the definition. In English this week, we have written thank you letters to the adults who helped on the visit to London and also to Miss Matthews. We also, edited and redrafted our Paddington diary entries for display. On Tuesday, Mrs Jones came to visit and read us the story of 'The Boy who Would Become King' and Kestrels were able to spot links to things which they had seen and found out about on their trip to Buckingham Palace, which was really lovely. A big thank you to Mrs Jones for visiting us. We were also visited this week by Mr Hand and Miss Matthews during our maths lesson and they were very impressed by the partitioning work being completed by Kestrels and the way in which the children were able to verbalise their understanding of their work. We have also looked at identifying missing

numbers on a number line using our place value knowledge.



In our dance lesson, Kestrels have tried to think of the ways in which they could show different jungle animals through movements to jungle themed music. Outdoor PE this week focused on developing our ability to dribble, pass and control the movement of a football.



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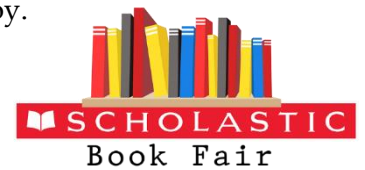
Dates for your Diary

- 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 – Friday 27th October – Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday 24th October and Thursday 26th October – Parent Consultations

Scholastic Book Fair

It's that time again! We are excited to be celebrating reading by running the Scholastic Book Fair at the end of this half-term, taking place from **Friday 20th October** until **Friday 27th October**. Last year, we managed to sell lots of books meaning that Anker Valley earned commission to be able to buy our own selection of new books for our library. This year, we hope to sell even more books so that we can surprise the children with some new titles in the school library!

This week, we counted the books in our library, and we discovered that we have a ratio of 17 books to every 1 child... but we want to increase this! Your support with this last year was incredible and we hope that you can help us to provide even more books for our families to enjoy.



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.

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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Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 22nd September 2023

October is **walk** **INTO** school **MONTH**

Get involved and get active by pledging to walk to school at least once a week throughout October.

air
aware
Staffordshire

Walking to school is great for your mental and physical health and also helps the environment!



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