



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 20th October 2023

Reading, Recorder, Art and Football clubs finish today. We will confirm clubs for after half term next week. Laser Tag and Gymnastic club will run as normal.

Harvest Festival

We would like to thank all parents and carers that donated food and joined us for our Harvest celebrations today. We have yet again been overwhelmed by your generosity and I know that the Tamworth Community Foodbank very much appreciated your offerings when our Pupil Governors delivered it. Thank you to Mrs Free and the children in Kestrels for leading our wonderful celebration.



Rock It Music Parents Session

Mrs Smith would like to provide an opportunity for our Dragonflies and Herons to showcase what they have been learning in their weekly music sessions. On **Monday 23rd October**, we would like to invite parents to join us in the school hall at the following times below to celebrate their musical achievements:

Dragonflies 2:30pm – 3:00pm

Herons 2:00pm – 2:30pm

There will be a session for Kestrels after the Christmas holidays, and we look forward to sharing more information about this with you.

Attendance

School attendance this term: 96.38%

School attendance this week: 95.06%

Dragonflies (this week): 89.67%

Herons (this week): 100.00%

Kestrels (this week): 96.12%

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.

SH Active Clubs (Mondays and Tuesdays only)

After half term, our laser tag and gymnastics clubs will draw to a close and we will be starting our next round of clubs. SH Active will be starting an **axe throwing club** and a **martial arts club** after the half term break and information about how to book these sessions has been sent home in bookbags and via email.

Updates about clubs run by Anker Valley staff will be sent home before October half term.



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

This week the children have had a great week in Dragonflies. They are all really enjoying their reading sessions and are beginning to apply their phonics knowledge to their decoding and blending. In maths they have had fun making different patterns this week. They have also enjoyed being creative in the outside kitchen making their own concoction of a soup.



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

Happy 5th Birthday to Millie & Oliver! We hope you had a great day. From your Anker Valley Family.

Herons have had a brilliant and busy week!

In English, we have been planning our own story about a lost toy. We have also learnt four new alternative graphemes and have been revising these ready for our first phonics assessment in Year 1, over the next week. In Maths, the children have completed their unit about 'Place Value within 10' and have completed an end of unit assessment. The children will then start their new unit next week all about 'Addition and Subtraction within 10'. In the afternoons, we have been practicing logging onto the Chromebooks, creating our very own fantastic vehicles and creating a final art piece in our sketchbooks. We are looking forward to starting our new units in our wider curriculum next week!



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

Happy 7th Birthday to Ben and Jayden! We hope you had a great day. From your Anker Valley Family.

It has been a busy week again in Kestrels as we have been rehearsing for our Harvest Festival and we hope that you enjoyed watching it. In maths this week, we have started our addition and subtraction unit and have been looking at number bonds and related facts. In English, we have sequenced, planned and written our own version of the story Paddington at the Palace. We have also continued with our whole class reading looking at the story of Katie in London. In RE we have listened to a Buddhist story called 'Siddhartha and the Swan' and thought about the importance of showing care to the animals in the world. In Geography we sorted human and physical features as a revisit of the key vocabulary and in Science, we continued to learn about the different habitats in the world.



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Dates for your Diary

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

Monday 23rd October – Rock It Music Parents Showcase (Reception and Year 1 only) See information below!

Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October – Scholastic Book Fair

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

Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November – Half Term (School Closed)

Tuesday 7th November – Year 2 Trip to Tamworth Castle

Friday 10th November – Remembrance Assembly with Mrs Hamblin

Monday 13th November – Friday 17th November – Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 14th November – Year 1 Trip to Spital Chapel

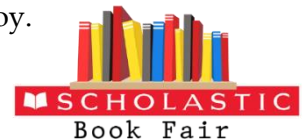
Friday 1st December – Decorating the Christmas Tree

- Small group of Year 2 children to attend carol singing at Ankerside Shopping Centre to raise money for a charitable cause.

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.



Parking

Staffordshire County Council have kindly provided us with two parking buddies following their traffic survey two weeks ago. They serve a polite reminder that the zig zag lines, double yellows and single yellow lines must not be parked on. They are there to ensure our children are safe during pick-up and drop-off. On the last page of our newsletter, you will see that we have also been sent a travel plan and map which shows how easy it is to walk, bike or ride your scooter from the surrounding areas in less than 10 minutes. Debbie will also be coming to deliver a special assembly to the children in November about the Be Bright Be Seen initiative.



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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Travel to

Anker Valley Primary Academy



Plan your journey
staffordshire.gov.uk/intoschooltravel

@INTOschtravel

Staffordshire
County Council
info@staffordshire.gov.uk

Designed by Pindar Creative
www.pindarcreative.co.uk

Planning your journey

Plan your school journey using the map provided. If you have a School Crossing Patrol on your route, use these for safe crossing points along with other areas to cross.



Air Aware

Air pollution can be a problem around all schools due to idling engines at pick up and drop off times.

Park away from school or choose active travel to reduce air pollution around your school.

<http://www.llnoltdle.doingourbit.info>



Active Travel

Active travel on your journey to and from school, either walking, scooting or cycling, will provide your child with half of their recommended daily exercise.

They are the easiest ways to get moving and active and suitable for all ages. Active travel:

- helps children develop road safety skills.
- keeps the local air clean and streets traffic free.
- gets children arriving at school more alert.
- is free! Think of how much money you can save by leaving the car at home.

Walk, Cycle, Scoot to School

Walking, cycling and scooting is quick and easy. Here are some top tips to help you plan your journey to school:

- Whilst walking, be safe and be seen by wearing visible clothing and looking always when sharing roads or paths with other users.
- Plan and practice your route, using cycle paths where they are available.
- Check your bike or scooter and secure it safely.
- Bikeability training is available in schools, ask your school for more information and check out www.bikeability.org.uk for more top tips.



Park and Stride

Even if parents must drive some of the journey to school, it is possible to finish the last part of the school journey by foot, or even scooter enjoying the benefits of active travel.

Over a third of parents say that their walk to school is where they find out most about their children. Don't miss out on this by parking too close to the school, do your bit for you, the school and your child.

Don't park close to the school or leave the engine running – idling is dangerous for other road users and pedestrians. An engine running for 1 minute can fill 150 balloons with pollution. Be Air Aware and school site friendly.



Get Involved

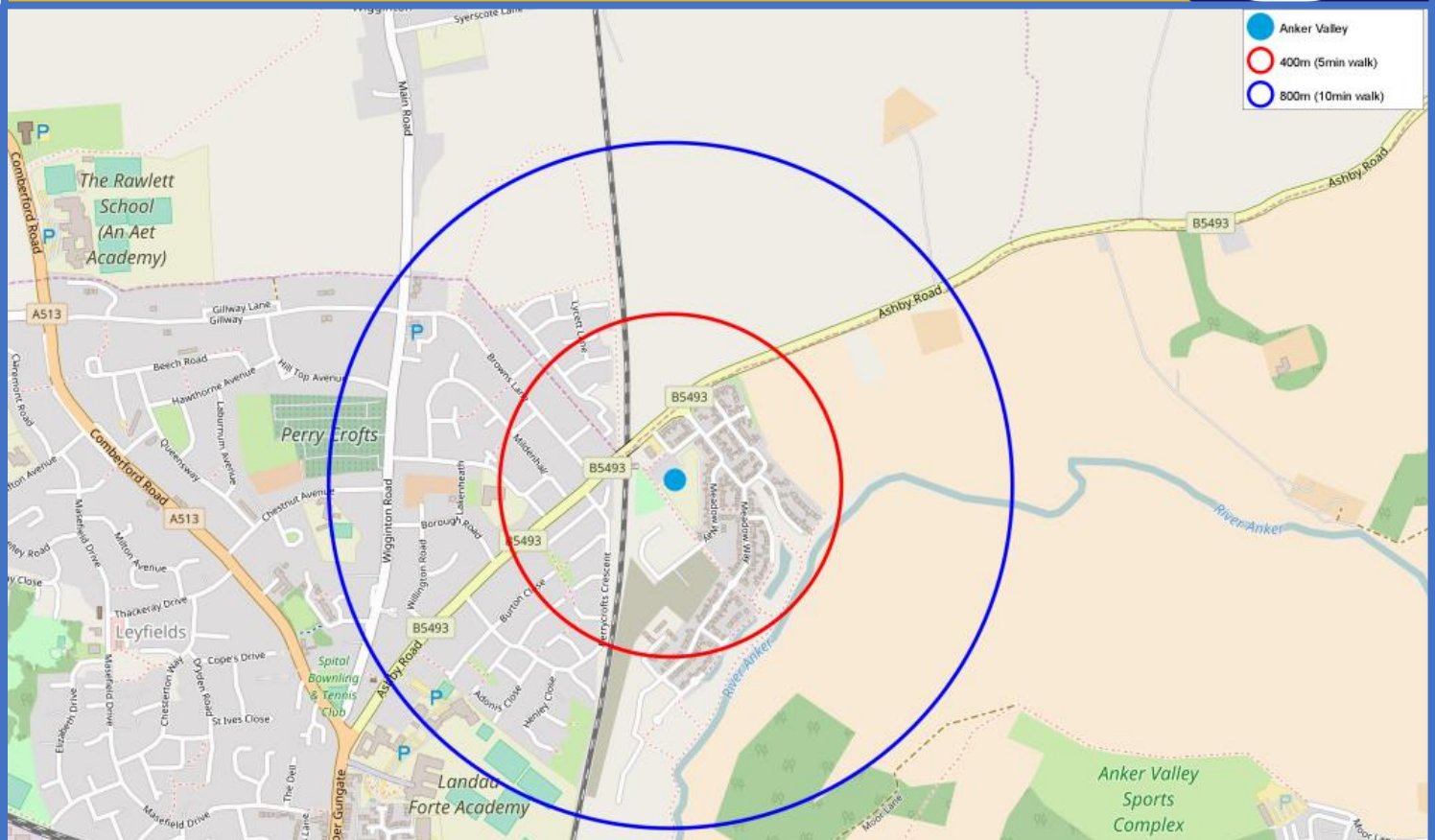
Throughout the school year, your school will be encouraged to take part in travel campaigns e.g. walk to school, be bright be seen, bike week, scooter competitions and many more activities.

We will also ask for information on how children travel to and from your school to help set initiatives.

Modeshift STARS Travel Plan

Modeshift STARS is a national schools' award scheme. It recognises schools who demonstrate excellence in supporting walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable travel.

www.modeshiftstars.org



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