



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

## Remembrance Assembly with Mrs Hamblin

We would like to express our thanks to Mrs Hamblin for leading our Remembrance Day assembly this morning. The children listened carefully about the origin of Armistice Day and why we wear poppies as a mark of respect. Mrs Hamblin showed the children an authentic World War 2 soldier's uniform (belonging to Nylah's family) as well as talking about her own family members who have served and serve in the armed forces. The assembly finished with a minute's silence to pay respect to those who have lost their lives and to think of those who are serving and affected by war today.



## Assembly Update

Many thanks to those who completed our Parent Survey before the half term break; as always we appreciate your feedback. We received lots of comments about our Friday Family Assembly and as much as parents value the opportunity to celebrate with their children, many feel that doing this weekly is too much, particularly for working parents. We have therefore made the decision to trial rotating Celebration Assembly across the half terms, meaning that each class would have one (possibly two, dependent on the length of the half term) thus reducing the number of times parents are invited to attend. The exception to this will obviously be our End of Term celebrations or special assemblies e.g., for Christingle.

## Dates for this half term's assemblies are as follows:

*Friday 17th November - Dragonflies Celebration Assembly only. (Dragonflies parents only)*

*Friday 24th November - Herons Celebration Assembly only. (Herons parents only)*

*Friday 1st December - No Family Assembly. There will be a Christingle Assembly at 2:45pm following on from our parent's workshop (all parents welcome)*

*Friday 8th December - Kestrels Celebration Assembly only. (Kestrels parents only)*

*Friday 15th December - No Family Assembly. (Christmas Production - Tickets provided).*

*Friday 22nd December - End of Term Celebration Assembly (All parents welcome).*

Please feel free to send in certificates for activities outside of school during the week of your child's Celebration assembly, as we feel this is still important; birthdays will also be celebrated weekly. However, Star Learners, Outstanding Citizen, reading awards, etc will only be given to the class who has Celebration assembly that week. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding with this.

## Attendance

**School attendance this term: 96.45%**

**School attendance this week: 96.98%**

**Dragonflies (this week): 98.00%**

**Herons (this week): 95.19%**

**Kestrels (this week): 96.98%**

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

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



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*





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

We have had a great first week back. The children were really excited to meet our new class pet Storm. We have enjoyed finding out about how to look after him. This week in Drawing Club we have focused on Banana Man, the children have produced some fantastic work!



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

Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Isobel! We hope you had a great day. From your Anker Valley Family.

All of Herons, have settled beautifully back into Year 1 life! It has been lovely to see them happy and ready to learn! In Maths this week, we have been exploring number sentences and we have learnt that four number sentences can be written when using the same parts and whole. In English, we have been learning about imperative verbs and the children have used these to make their own command sentences. The children were great at being bossy when using their command sentences. In the wider curriculum, the children enjoyed our first attacking and defending game in football, creating a self-portrait on the Chromebooks and did a good job at discussing what secrets are ok to keep and what secrets we must share. We are looking forward to our trip to Spital Chapel next week!



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

This week, Kestrels visited Tamworth Castle. During the first workshop the children took on the role of squires and helped to put a knight's armour together. They found out that Tamworth Castle is over 900 years old and that it is a Motte and Bailey Castle. They then went to meet Lady Ferrers, who was getting ready for a banquet and needed help to set the tables. She kept telling the children how rich and important she was and made sure that they showed reverence to her by teaching them how to bow and curtsy correctly. Freddie and Darcie were then transported back in time as they tried on items of clothing, which children would have worn during the Norman era. After lunch, we explored the rest of the Castle before returning to school. We had a fabulous time and found out lots of interesting facts!



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## Dates for your Diary

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** – Anti-Bullying Week – **Wear odd socks on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov!**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 1 Trip to Spital Chapel

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Be Bright Be Seen Assembly (Road Safety) *For children*

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – Decorating the Christmas Tree & Christingle Assembly – 1:30-3:15pm (Parents welcome, no Family Assembly)

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – Small group of Year 2 children to attend carol singing at Ankerside Shopping Centre to raise money for a charitable cause (full details to be confirmed).

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Nativity (Reception – Year 2) – 6:00pm

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Disco (Reception – Year 2) – 4:30-5:30pm

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Nativity (Reception – Year 2) – 9:00am (No Family Assembly)

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Reception Trip to West Midland's Safari

## OPOJ After Care - Availability

Please be aware that OPOJ have availability every day in the After Care club if you are looking for childcare after school. After Care runs from 3:30-5:30pm. Please contact [KTomlinson@opoj.fierte.org](mailto:KTomlinson@opoj.fierte.org) for further information or to register your interest and book spaces.

## Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Pantomime – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

We are very excited to announce that on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**, Herons and Kestrels will be visiting the Tamworth Assembly Rooms to see the performance of The Father Christmas Show. The children will get to join in with lots of festive songs as they join Father Christmas and his chief elves as they make preparations ahead of Christmas Eve. We will be walking to the 12:30pm performance of the show, leaving school at approximately 11:45am, having had an early dinner. We will also be taking a snack with us to have on arrival. The children will return to school in time for the end of the school day. The cost of the visit is **£12.00**. This trip is available to pay on Parent Pay by no later than **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**, so that we are able to confirm places with the Assembly Rooms. Many thanks for your ongoing support and we are delighted to be taking the children on such a lovely trip.

## Christmas Disco – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

We invite children back to school wearing their best party clothes on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** from 4:30-5:30pm, to attend our Christmas Disco. The children will enjoy lots of festive music and dancing with their friends. Tickets to the disco are available to purchase on Parent Pay at a cost of £3.00, which includes refreshments of crisps, biscuits, and a drink during the event. Parents do not need to stay for this event as staff will be in the hall enjoying the disco too! We look forward to this exciting event and know that the children will have a fantastic time.

## Safeguarding—Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

**Mrs Natalie Horlor** (Head of School) [nhorlor@ankervalley.org](mailto:nhorlor@ankervalley.org)

**Mrs Maria Hamblin** (Executive Head teacher and CEO) [CEO@fierte.org](mailto:CEO@fierte.org)

**Mrs Julia Jones** (Safeguarding Lead Governor) [office@ankervalley.org](mailto:office@ankervalley.org)

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



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