



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

**Reminder: There will be no Family Assembly on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December; our Christingle service will be at 2:45pm.**

## Heron's Stars of the Week

Congratulations to all of our stars in Herons this week. We are very proud of you!



Stars of the Week: Emily and Archie

Reader of the Week: Evelyn

Outstanding Citizen: Evie

Congratulations also to our Rainbow Readers:

Jayden, Theo T, Leo, Jake, Noah, Oliver, Lily L, Elsie, Violet, Theo H, Monika, Archie, Hallie, Alfie, Theo T, Isobel, Leo

## Christingle Service – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

We are looking forward to holding our Christingle Parent Workshop and Service on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. We ask that those parents that are able to attend arrive from 1:00pm, where you will have the opportunity to join in with a variety of activities with the children, including decorating the Christmas tree, making a Christingle and writing letters to Father Christmas. This will be followed by our Christingle service with Reverend Dyson at approximately 2:45pm. We appreciate that not every parent will be able to attend this and would like to reassure you that all adults from school will be attending the event and on hand to support. We look forward to beginning our festive celebrations with you.

## 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.

## Attendance

School attendance this term: 96.40%

School attendance this week: 96.74%

Dragonflies (this week): 96.33%

Hérons (this week): 95.52%

Kestrels (this week): 98.28%

**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.



Attendance is good to excellent.

No/few lessons are being missed. Impact upon learning is minimal.

Class Teacher to celebrate attendance

0 – 8.5 days off during the academic year



Attendance levels are beginning to cause concern.

Risk/high risk of underachievement. Child will struggle to reach their full potential.

Class Teacher to contact parent to discuss absences

9 – 14 days off during the academic year



Attendance levels are causing significant concern.

High/severe risk of underachievement.

Senior Leader to contact family to offer an improvement plan Consider legal action (risk of fine being issued)

14.5 to 19.5 days off during the academic year



Attendance decreased to an unacceptable level – despite intervention and support.

Extreme risk of underachievement.

20+ days off during the academic year

Senior Leader/Trust Wellbeing Lead/EWO Legal action (fine)



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*





# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November



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

This week in Dragonflies we have been thinking about different ways to represent the numbers 4 and 5. The children have enjoyed using loose parts to make their own numbers. We have loved the story 'Laura's Star' and the children have been really creative in thinking of different ways to help the star.



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

Another super week from all the children in Herons!

In maths, the children have shown such progress with their recalling of number bonds and the understanding of working systematically. They have then applied their understanding of addition to solve word problems.

In English, the children enjoyed writing a set of instructions and have shown such a good understanding of imperative verbs and command sentences. In phonics, the children have learnt another four alternative graphemes this week and are recognising more tricky words too!

In our wider curriculum, the children have enjoyed passing a ball in PE, written questions in preparation for our visit from the PCSO and sorted materials according to their properties.



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

Kestrels have been working hard this week in all areas of their learning and Mrs Hamblin was very impressed when she taught them on Tuesday. In English, they have sequenced the story of Rapunzel and have practised orally re-telling the story ready to write their own Rapunzel story. In maths, we have been continuing with our topic on addition and subtraction. The children have looked at adding and subtracting two two-digit numbers by exchanging when crossing over the tens. In history, the children used their knowledge of motte and bailey castles to create an information leaflet and in RE the children listened to the Bible story about the birth of Jesus before completing some artwork. Thank you for all the donations of cereal boxes, we will be making the drawbridges next week so look out for photos on Tapestry!



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*





# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

## Dates for your Diary

**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

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 1 & Year 2 Pantomime at Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** – Christmas Dinner – **Payment can now be made on Parent Pay**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** – End of Term Assembly – 9:00am

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** Kestrel's Family Assembly.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – No Family Assembly – 9:00am Christmas Nativity.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** – Termly Celebration Assembly – All parents welcome.

## Christmas Dinner – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Due to the higher number of siblings in school this year, we are looking at arranging three sessions for Christmas dinner so that siblings are able to dine together. The provisional time slots are **11:30-12:00**, **12:10-12:40** and **12:50-1:20pm**, however this may change subject to final numbers received through Parent Pay bookings on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. On **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** you will receive an email confirming your time slot. Please ensure that you have booked your meal by this date to avoid disappointment; we will **not** be able to take bookings for Christmas dinner after Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, as we are expecting a high number of parents to attend and the kitchen will need to prepare and place orders in advance of 21<sup>st</sup> December. Thank you for your support with this.

## 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 whilst 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 support and we are delighted to be taking the children on such a lovely trip.

## 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.*



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*





# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

## Attendance Matters

It is vital that children attend school every day. Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning which can seriously disadvantage children.

- **5 minutes late every day means more than 3 days of education are missed.**
- **A score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed 4 weeks over a school year or around 100 lessons.**
- **Even 95% attendance means 2 weeks lost or around 50 lessons.**
- **85% attendance is 6 weeks or around 150 lessons missed.**

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence from the Department for Education shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. Their research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who did not perform as well.

The data shows that in 2019, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard. 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

Recently, Ofsted have pointed out that missing small amounts of education can mean a child misses important parts of the curriculum and, as a result, they may struggle to connect the parts of learning that are built on in lessons each day. Furthermore, Ofsted states:

'And it's not just about the academic opportunities. There's value in the whole school experience. Learning with peers, enjoying sport and music, building relationships with adults beyond their families, and building friendships – these are the building blocks of well-being and a good life. School contributes so much to this.'

It is therefore vital that children are in school as much as possible.

We know that our academies are doing all that they can to improve attendance and to support children and parents where there is a decline. Also, we know that most parents and carers do all that they can to ensure their children attend school every day unless they are genuinely too ill to attend. We very much appreciate this.

Our appeal is to those parents and carers who could be doing more to support attendance, for example, by not booking holidays during term time or keeping their child at home when they are well enough to attend. The NHS has produced some useful guidance regarding this for parents which can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Should you have any concerns regarding attendance, please speak to the relevant staff in your respective academy. They can refer these on to a member of the Trust Central or Executive Teams if appropriate.

**Attendance does really matter and, working in partnership, we can ensure children reap the benefits of all we have to offer both academically and personally.**

**Fierté Multi-Academy Trust**



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*

