



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – INSET Day – School closed to all pupils**

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Following feedback from parents with regards to communication, in the New Year we will be reducing the number of emails sent out. Daily emails from teachers will continue as feedback for this has been very positive, however reminders about clubs, trips, lunches, snacks, etc will be kept to a minimum and only sent where deemed necessary. Please ensure that you refer to the newsletter for information about dates, times, events and finer details.

Please be aware that after the New Year, you will be sent reminders to book your child's school meals on a Friday. If meals have not been selected by Monday morning, class teachers will ask the children what they would like for the week. This helps to ensure the kitchen and office run efficiently in the mornings and food waste is kept to an absolute minimum. Snacks can continue to be booked daily.

As always, we value your feedback, therefore please do not hesitate to let us know if you feel that we need to make any further adjustments to our communication system.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all staff and children at Anker Valley.

## Congratulations to the Autumn Stars of the Term!



Rory (*Dragonflies*)  
Noah (*Hérons*)  
Sophie (*Kestrels*)

## Congratulations to our Autumn Attendance Winners!



Thank you to all the parents that have supported with their child's attendance this term, enabling them to achieve 96% or above. We know that there have been lots of bugs around this term so appreciate that it has not been easy.

**96 – 100%**  
Attendance is good to excellent.  
No/few lessons are being missed. Impact upon learning is minimal.  
Class Teacher to celebrate attendance

**93 – 95%**  
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

0 – 8.5 days off during the academic year

**Attendance**  
School attendance this term: **96.31%**  
School attendance this week: **96.27%**  
**Dragonflies (this week): 95.65%**  
**Hérons (this week): 95.90%**  
**Kestrels (this week): 97.24%**

**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.

**90 – 92%**  
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)

**Under 89%**  
Attendance decreased to an unacceptable level – despite intervention and support.  
Extreme risk of underachievement.  
Senior Leader/Trust Wellbeing Lead/EWO. Legal action (fine)

14.5 to 19.5 days off during the academic year

20+ days off during the academic year

**Happy Birthday from your Anker Valley Family!**  
Tilly, Daniel, Nicole and Jenson (Kestrels)  
Jax, Alfie and Lily (Hérons)



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*



## Dragonflies Trip to West Midlands Santa Safari

'I just wanted to say a massive thank you to all the staff & volunteers who made yesterday's reception trip possible. My child had the best time, telling me she's now seen the real Santa & lots & lots of reindeers! Many thanks to you all.'



'Thank you for taking my child to have such a wonderful time today! He absolutely loved it.'

## The Father Christmas Show – Year 1 & Year 2

The children had a fantastic visit to Tamworth Assembly Rooms to watch The Father Christmas Show pantomime.





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## Anker Valley's Christmas Dinner

Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents that were able to join us for Christmas dinner on Thursday. A lovely time was had by all.

Huge thanks to the staff for serving, clearing down and setting up tables for 210 guests! Most importantly a huge thank you to Mrs Chyla, Mrs Wheeler and Mrs Smith for preparing such a wonderful meal.



## A message from Mrs Hamblin

### Autumn Update (December 2023)

#### Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are looking forward to Christmas and spending time with cherished ones. Our children across the Trust have enjoyed their nativities, discos, parties and all that Christmas in school has to offer. Here are a few Autumn updates.

#### Garden Village Primary Academy

You will no doubt be aware that our new school in Tamworth has already started to be constructed. A Project Team are securing excellence in staffing, resources, and the intended curriculum for our brand-new school. Thank you to Executive Leaders and Central Support Staff for ensuring that every deadline has not only been met, but in many areas already exceeding expected dates and timings.

#### Parental Engagement

Working together to support our children remains a priority and the way in which parents work with staff across all roles remains a fundamental to every child's success. The relationships we strive for, must be built on mutual respect, equality, and a willingness to give. Please therefore, continue to treat our staff in the way in which you would wish to be treated yourself. They appreciate the many parents who demonstrate this day in day out with kindness and thoughtfulness towards our hard-working staff.

#### Chair of the Trust Board

We are delighted to welcome a new Chair of the Trust Board, Mrs. Zoe Insley. She has already dedicated many hours as a Trustee but has now taken the reins as Chair. Zoe has considerable expertise in business and organisational leadership. She has many attributes that will ensure that as a family of schools we are supported to secure the highest outcomes for our children.

#### Finally...

Thank you to our beautiful children. They make our jobs such a joy and privilege and we never forget that it is for their benefit that we give our best endeavours. We look forward to seeing them on their return. Wishing each and every one of you a peaceful, perfect Christmas.



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## Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024** – Start of Spring term (children return to school)

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January** – Sleep Workshop led by MPFT for Parents 5:00pm

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February** – Y2 African Dance and Drumming Workshop (Parents invited to attend at 3:00pm)

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February** – Scholastic Book Fair

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February** – Parent Consultation Evenings (Tuesday 5:00-7:00pm, Thursday 4:00-6:00pm, Scholastic Book Fair will be open on these evenings)

**12<sup>th</sup> February –16<sup>th</sup> February** – Half term

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** – Chinese Dragon Workshop (All year groups) Parents invited to attend at 3:00pm

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Non School Uniform Day – donations of chocolate for chocolate bingo.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – SEND Target Review Week

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Chocolate Bingo – 5:00-7:00pm Adults £5 per ticket, Children £3.50 per ticket. Includes drinks and snacks.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March** – Easter Disco (Reception – Year 2) 4:30pm – 5:30pm

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April** – Easter Holidays

## Spring Term Assemblies

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January** – Dragonflies Family Assembly

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** – Dragonflies Family Assembly

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January** – Herons Family Assembly

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** – Herons Family Assembly

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** – Kestrels Family Assembly

## African Dance and Drumming Workshop (Year 2) – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February

As part of Kestrel's third topic this year about Kenya, the children will be having a dance and drumming workshop on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. The dance workshop will take place in the morning and all children will need their PE kits for this. In the afternoon Mr Baugh from Rock-it Music will be leading a drumming workshop. Parents are warmly invited to join us at **3:00pm** where Kestrel's will showcase their drumming skills.

## Sleep Workshop for Parents – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Michelle Page from the Mental Health Support Team will be leading a workshop for parents on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at **5:00pm** about good sleep routines for children. She will be on hand to offer support and answer any questions that you might have with regards to your child and sleep. We look forward to you joining us for this.

## Chinese New Year – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February (All Year Groups)

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year at school. There will be a special Chinese menu and the children will take part in a dragon dancing workshop. They will need their PE kit in school on this day and parents are invited to join us for a dragon dance showcase at 3:00pm. **As this is for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, space in the hall will be limited, therefore we ask that only one parent per family attends and that pushchairs and prams are left outside.**

## 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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