



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 12th January 2024

Monday 15th January – After School Clubs start. We will also be trialling opening the gates at the slightly earlier time of 8:40am (staff will be on the playground from 8:45am – please do not leave your child until staff arrive.

Dear Parents, I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year; it has been lovely to see on Tapestry so many photographs sharing the children's celebrations too. After a long autumn term, we are now at the start of incredibly short term, with lots of activities taking place, so please do keep an eye on the newsletter for updates.

Can I please remind all parents to book dinners and snacks by 4:00pm every Friday, as we need to provide the kitchen with meal selections for the week on a Monday morning. If selections have not been made, your child will be asked to make their choices for the week when they arrive at school.

The colder weather is definitely now upon us; thank parents for sending in hats, scarves and gloves so that the children can still enjoy important time outside. Can you please ensure items are named; we have found lots of stray gloves around school! In addition to this, we have had children lose jumpers that have names sewn into them. Can you please check all jumpers and return any to class teachers that may have been inadvertently taken. Thank you for your support with this and kindest regards as always, Mrs Horlor.

Late Collection Policy

As a school, we completely understand that there may be odd occasions when a parent may experience delays beyond their control, which may result in the late collection of their child; rest assured that during these times, AVPA staff would always ensure that a child is kept safe and happy.

Unfortunately, as a trust, we have noticed an increase in the frequency of late collections both at home time and following clubs and have, therefore deemed it necessary to craft a Late Collection Policy, a copy of which can be found on our website.

[Anker Valley Primary Academy - Policies](#)

We kindly ask parents to familiarise themselves with this, as this is now being followed in all academies.

Thank you for your support with this.

Update on Interactive Whiteboards from Fierte Trust

Over the Christmas break, you may have seen in the media that an incident occurred in a local school where a riser mounted touchscreen device became detached from the wall in a classroom, resulting in an injury to a pupil. An installation failure has been confirmed as the cause.

We were notified of this at the end of last term by Staffordshire County Council. In line with their advice, we are arranging checks on all devices to assure ourselves that all fixings and methods of installation are secure and in accordance with manufacturer requirements. Furthermore, moving forward into the future, we are procuring a service contract with a reputable company to ensure checks are carried out at regular intervals.

In the meantime, premises staff within each academy have been asked to undertake daily visual inspections to ensure all fixings remain intact. These checks will be recorded, and any damage, deterioration or malfunction reported to the CFOO who will ensure immediate actions are taken to address any identified issues.

The safety of children, staff and visitors always remains our highest priority. Should you have any further questions relating to this, please do not hesitate to raise these locally in the first instance or contact the Trust using the information available on our website.

Attendance

School attendance this term: 96.43%

School attendance this week: 98.84%

Dragonflies (this week): 99.52%

Hérons (this week): 100.00%

Kestrels (this week): 97.04%

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.

Dragonflies' Stars of the Week

Congratulations to all of our stars in Dragonflies this week, we are very proud of you!

Stars of the Week: Zachary and Jacob

Reader of the Week: Felicity

Outstanding Citizen: Lottie



Congratulations Rainbow Readers:

Louisa, Sophie, Rory, Eva, Albie, Noah, Charlie, Elsie-Mai, Blake, Jacob, Ethan, Rocco, Nevaeh, Myla, Matei, Georgia, Felicity



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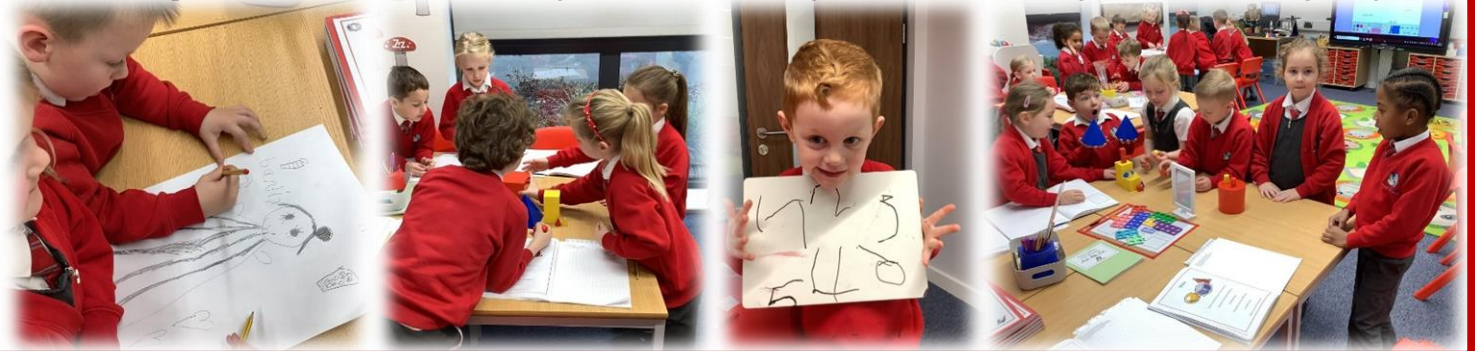
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We have had a lovely start to the new term, the children arrived in school on Monday to find a crime scene. They enjoyed exploring the evidence and retelling the story of Goldilocks. In maths, we have been investigating the number 0. Well done, Dragonflies you have made a great start to the term.



Hérons have settled back beautifully and have shown great resilience as continuous provision has been removed! They are showing us how much progress they are continuing to make! In maths, the children have finished their learning on addition and subtraction within 10 and have started their new learning on 2D and 3D shapes. In English, we have looked at our model text of a diary entry and we have started to learn all about past tense. In the wider curriculum, the children have enjoyed their first lesson exploring Beebots, understanding the term responsible in PSHE and learning more about our significant historical figure 'Florence Nightingale'.



Kestrels have made a fabulous start to the spring term, and it was really lovely to see them all back after the Christmas holidays. This week, we have been learning about money in maths. The children have been counting money, comparing amounts and choosing notes and coins to make a given amount. In English, we have started a new book about the life of Nelson Mandela and in geography the children have started to learn all about the country of Kenya. They looked at maps of Kenya and identified different features of the country and generated questions that they would like to be able to find the answers to during this unit of learning. Mrs Hamblin also taught them a traditional African playground dance. In science, we have started to learn about plants building on their learning from Year 1 and in art the children have been looking at different types of architecture and the importance of perspective and angles when drawing. It has been a busy first week back!



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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 17th January – Sleep Workshop led by MPFT for Parents 5:00pm

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

Friday 2nd February – Thursday 8th February – Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th February – Parent Consultation Evenings (Tuesday 5:00-7:00pm, Thursday 4:00-6:00pm, Scholastic Book Fair will be open on these evenings) ***No clubs this week***

Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February – Half term

Friday 23rd February – Chinese Dragon Workshop (All year groups) Parents invited to attend at 3:00pm (No Family Assembly today)

Friday 8th March – Non School Uniform Day – donations of chocolate for chocolate bingo.

Monday 11th – Friday 15th March – SEND Target Review Week

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

Thursday 21st March – Easter Disco (Reception – Year 2) 4:30pm – 5:30pm (£3.00 per child)

Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April – Easter Holidays

Spring Term Assemblies

Friday 19th January – Herons Family Assembly

Friday 26th January – Kestrels Family Assembly

Friday 2nd February – Dragonflies Family Assembly

Friday 9th February – Herons Family Assembly

Friday 1st March – Kestrels Family Assembly

Friday 2nd March – Dragonflies Family Assembly

Sleep Workshop for Parents – Wednesday 17th January

Michelle Page from the Mental Health Support Team will be leading a workshop for parents on Wednesday 17th 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.

African Dance and Drumming Workshop (Year 2) – Thursday 1st February

As part of Kestrel's third topic this year about Kenya, the children will be having a dance and drumming workshop on Thursday 1st 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.

Chinese New Year – Friday 23rd February (All Year Groups)

On Friday 23rd 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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