



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**\*No clubs on from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February\***

Dear Parents / Carers, you will all be aware that Anker Valley had their first Ofsted inspection this week since opening as a new school. Thank you to the many parents who took the time to share the many things that you feel the school is doing well. You will not be surprised to hear, that the children rose to the occasion and demonstrated all the virtues that we teach them; we had wonderful feedback about their kindness, care and respect for each other. Governors, Trust leaders and staff have been superb, working until very late to ensure that everything went smoothly and going above and beyond their day-to-day roles; we appreciate this very much.

The outcome will be shared with parents following quality assurance checks and publication of the final report; this is most likely to be after the half term break. We very much look forward to sharing the report with you and whilst there are next steps as you would expect, there is much to be celebrated.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and thank you once again for the support and encouragement that you give, it really does make a difference.

Kindest regards as always, Mrs Horlor.

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

The scholastic Book Fair will be in school from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Books will be available to purchase after school from the library, and during parent consultations. We are so thankful for all the books we have been able to secure for our library through the Scholastic Book Fair so far and hope to break our sales record once again! A big thank you for your continued support.

### Number Day – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

To celebrate Number Day, we invite children to come to school dressed as their favourite number or shape! We look forward to seeing the costumes you can create at home.

### Kestrel's Stars of the Week

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

Stars of the Week: Eva-Mae and Edison

Outstanding Citizen: Isla-Rae

Reader of the Week: Harry



Congratulations Rainbow Readers: Luna, Hope, Sophie, Nicole, Michael, Daniel, Edison, Eva, Hollie, Freddie, Darcie, Edith, Esme, Ronnie, Olivia, Nylah, Jayden S, Ben

### 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.

### Attendance

School attendance this year: 96.63%

School attendance this term: 98.36%

School attendance this week: 97.80%

Dragonflies (this week): 98.52%

Herons (this week): 97.51%

Kestrels (this week): 97.32%

**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.

**96 – 100%**

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

**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

9 – 14 days off during the academic year

**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)

14.5 to 19.5 days off during the academic year

**Under 80%**

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

Extreme risk of underachievement.

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

20+ days off during the academic year



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## What we have learned this week in Dragonflies...

This week, Dragonflies have had a busy week. We have been super proud of their excellent behaviour and fantastic work. This week we have enjoyed exploring the story of The Three Little Pigs and linking it to our learning. The children have enjoyed retelling the story, making the different houses and deciding which material would be best to make the house. In maths, we have been thinking about mass and have been using the vocabulary heavy and light. Well done, Dragonflies, you have had an amazing week.



## What we have learned this week in Herons...

Herons have been superstars this week! They have presented themselves beautifully in all challenges this week, even with our special visitors. In Maths, the children have been exploring numbers 10-19 and have been using the base 10 resources to explore the composition of the 2-digit numbers. In English, the children have been reading, performing and writing their own version of the poem 'Who has seen the wind?'. In our wider curriculum lessons, the children have been creating sculptures, exploring when different celebrations are celebrated throughout the year and have designed a bag for Florence Nightingale. We are very proud of all of our Herons! Miss Matthews and Miss Stacey.



## What we have learned this week in Kestrels...

Kestrels have had a very busy week! We have been learning about the Islamic faith in RE and looked at how Muslims worship. We explored different artefacts and talked about the importance of showing respect to another person's religious beliefs. In maths we have started our multiplication and division unit and have been identifying, making and adding equal groups. English this week has focused on non-chronological reports; we have researched information about African animals so that we can create our own non-fiction book. Kestrels have also made us very proud by showing our special visitors this week how amazing they are! Well done, Kestrels.



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## Dates for your Diary

**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** – Number Day - We invite children to dress up as their favourite number or shape.

**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)

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** – Pancake Race – We invite parents to come to school to watch the pancake races before taking children home at 3:30pm.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Half-Term Holiday**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** – Dragonflies trip to Parkridge Centre

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

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day – Children to come dressed as their favourite story book characters.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Ladies Tea and Cake – Mothers or grandmothers are invited to join us from **2:30pm – 3:30pm** for tea and cake to celebrate Mother's Day. Admission is £3.50 per adult which is now available to pay on Parent Pay

**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 (£3.00 per child)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – Easter Bonnet Parade – Parents invited to watch our Easter Bonnet Parade

## Spring Term Assemblies

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

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

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – Kestrels Family Assembly

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Dragonflies Family Assembly

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – Herons Family Assembly

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – End of Term Assembly

## Ladies Tea & Cake

To celebrate Mother's Day, we invite mothers or grandmothers into school on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March to join the children for tea and cake in the school hall. Admission is £3.50 per adult and is now available to purchase on Parent Pay. **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.**

## Chocolate Bingo

Chocolate Bingo will be taking place Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets for adults are £5 each and children's tickets are £3.50 each. You are now able to make payment for this event on Parent Pay. Extra details will be shared closer to the date.

## Easter Disco

Our Easter Disco will take place Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Tickets are £3 per child which includes crisps, a biscuit and juice. You are now able to make payment for this event on Parent Pay. Extra details will be shared closer to the date.

## 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](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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## Answers to some common questions about measles and the MMR vaccine



- measles outbreaks happen when not enough children have been vaccinated
- measles can be a very serious disease, leading to ear and chest infections, fits, diarrhoea, and damage to the brain. Measles can kill
- your child is at risk of measles if he or she hasn't had the MMR vaccination
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection
- if your child is due to have had 2 doses of MMR but has not yet received them, no matter what age they are, you should contact your GP to get them vaccinated as soon as possible\*
- if you can't remember if your child has had any, 1 or 2 doses of MMR vaccine, check his or her personal child health record (the Red Book). If this doesn't help, speak to your GP
- if you don't know how many doses your child has had, it's better to have 2 doses of MMR vaccine now rather than risk leaving them unprotected

### Why are we seeing these outbreaks of measles?

Measles is a highly infectious disease, spreading quickly from person to person, especially in schools. A child with measles will infect almost all unprotected children they have contact with. Since the end of 2017 there has been an increase in measles globally which has affected the UK. This has resulted in some spread into wider communities, in particular in undervaccinated groups.

### Will there be any side effects to the vaccination?

Your child may get the symptoms of measles, mumps and rubella for up to 6 weeks after the vaccination but in a very much milder form. This proves that the vaccine is working and your child is building up resistance to future contact with the viruses that cause the 3 diseases. Not all children show these symptoms but that doesn't mean the vaccine isn't working.

\*In response to a local outbreak then the 2 doses can be given one month apart from the age of 18 months.



### Should parents in outbreak areas get vaccinated against measles?

As with many diseases, once you have had measles, you don't catch it again because you have built up a natural resistance to it. So, if you've had measles or 2 doses of MMR vaccine you do not need to get vaccinated now.

### When are the MMR vaccinations usually given?

The best times are between 12 and 13 months of age and again at 3 years and 4 months, with one dose on each occasion. But, if your child wasn't vaccinated then, they can be vaccinated at any age with 2 doses one month apart.



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